

Bicentennial Perspective — 1

(Editor's Note: Rutland Bicentennial Perspectives is a series devoted to abstracting ingredients from the past two hundred years of life and concerns in Rutland that can contribute to a better understanding of the present and provide some guide for the future. Rutland Bicentennial Perspectives intends that its views of two centuries of American life will contribute not to a simple nostalgia but to the development of a sense of proportion in viewing and judging contemporary American life.)

The author — James S. Davidson, a Rutland historian, is chairman of the History and Social Sciences Department at Mount St. Joseph Academy and an Adjunct Professor of History at the College of St. Joseph the Provider.)

By JAMES F. DAVIDSON

Library services had a beginning in Rutland in September, 1792, when a Rutland lawyer, Nathaniel Chipman, proposed the organization of a subscription library for Rutland and its vicinity. Membership was restricted within a six-mile radius of the new courthouse in Rutland.

Chipman's proposals apparently were well-received for in December, 1793, a meeting of the members of the Library Company was duly announced for Jan. 2, 1794. By March, 1794, the Library Company had obtained a Library Room in Rutland which then

boasted a collection of 161 volumes. The Rutland Social Library limited membership to persons living in Rutland, in Clarendon as far south as the Mill River and east of the hills next west of Otter Creek, in Pittsford as far north as the meetinghouse and east of Otter Creek, and in Medway west of the west mountain. The rate of subscription was two dollars initially, two dollars at the end of six months and two dollars more at the end of twelve months. Although another library appeared in West Rutland in the summer of 1795, the Rutland Social Library continued to flourish into the nineteenth century.

The services of a library were seen as desirable in Rutland in the last decade of the eighteenth century. But they were limited to those who could pay the subscription fees and those who resided within a stated geographic limit. Today there is an even greater need for library services. And again, as in the past, there are questions of geographic limits and fees and costs.

Bicentennial Perspective — 2

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

On Jan. 30, 1798, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Vermont, Israel Smith of Rutland, concluded a charge to the Grand Jury of Rutland County with the following observations on the nature of punishments. His thoughts dealt with a question that is still pertinent today:

"It has been observed by some writers on law, that less attention has been paid to the nature and propriety of punishment, than to any other branch of jurisprudence. It is a subject of serious regret, that a branch so important, should be so much neglected. The sole end of punishment, is the prevention of crimes. Whether punishments are to be effectual for this purpose, will depend on their adaptation to that end; neither time, nor the occasion, will permit me to go into a critical examination of the subject.

"There are, however, some unanswered some intriguing questions.

William S. Coffin, he reports, held that we use our food aid to political purpose and withhold it from the truly needy of this world.

Narasimhan Kannan is reported to have insisted that U.S. aid to India should be stopped since "it only produced population increases that the country couldn't handle."

It's clear from the report that they agreed on damning U.S. policy, but really, shouldn't they have agreed before the forum on what that policy was to be damned for?

Your readers deserve a follow-up story. Perhaps some questions could be put directly to Messrs. Coffin and Kannan: Can the problem be resolved by reshuffling supply routes? Should aid to India be limited to the medical tools necessary for vasectomies? Should every aid package include contraceptives with the powdered milk? Should CIA agents be sterilized before they're turned loose to snoop in India?

Perhaps (and this is my suggestion) these gentlemen should get their act together and agree to take turns. Rev. Coffin could criticize our aid policy until the Sabel became well-fed, then it would be Mr. Kannan's turn to criticize until such time as we had cut off aid and solved the population problem. Then the Rev. Coffin could resume his place at the lectern, etc., etc.

All the while, the world could go on breeding and starving, starving and breeding . . . lecture fees could go on being paid . . .

BUD CHAMBERS
Grand Isle

High ideals are very seldom responsible for high living.

palpable considerations, which I think may induce us to wish for an alteration in the modes of punishment: I mean, instead of corporal punishment, to substitute confinement to hard labor, and coarse fare. It is easily seen, to effect this change, legislative interference is necessary. For notwithstanding our laws in some instances contemplate this mode of punishment, yet no workhouses are erected, nor suitable employment provided for the convicts. I ardently hope the legislature will not suffer one other session to pass away, without some attention to the subject. It is observable whenever a corporal punishment is inflicted, the greater part of mankind refuse to become the spectators of a spectacle so forbidding; as if this species of punishment did violence to the feelings of humanity. Experience likewise forbids the expectation, that a person rendered infamous by corporal punishment, is ever to be reclaimed. — Having lost the friendship of the world, and exposed to their hatred and contempt, compelled to carry about him the evidence of his disgrace, he is driven to despair; and after determining on a war with his fellow men, he commences the unequal conflict, and loading himself with crimes, falls a prey to his temerity and folly. But in the punishment recommended, where will the criminal find his excuse for enmity and hatred to the world? Confinement is justified, because it is the only security the community can have for his good behavior. That he should labor and provide for his own support, is the requirement of duty, if no crime had been committed.

"This discipline should be continued, for the purpose of strengthening virtuous habits, until satisfactory evidence can be obtained that his future conduct will be peaceable and inoffensive.

"The excellency of this punishment consists in its being nothing more or less, than an habitual compliance with duty. Here will be a fair opportunity for habit, that all-powerful controller of human actions, to do its work: and teach partakers of crimes, what it teaches all who have received its instruction, that the paths of virtue are preferable to those of vice. . . ."

Today Vermont citizens again have occasion to consider the question of what is appropriate punishment for the criminal.

(James S. Davidson, a Rutland historian, is chairman of the History and Social Sciences Department at Mount St. Joseph Academy and an Adjunct Professor of History at the College of St. Joseph the Provider.)

Bicentennial Perspective — 3

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In late eighteenth century Vermont, the lottery was a reputable method for raising funds for the support of public improvements and the relief of private loss. However, the system required that the state Legislature approve each lottery. In addition, the Legislature usually directed that the managers of the lottery post a money bond to guarantee the integrity of the lottery.



Lotteries varied in their structure and in their faults. Some succeeded and some failed. Those in the Rutland area were quite representative of the system.

In 1792 subscribers raised 300 pounds to erect a new courthouse in Rutland. The building was more commonly called the Statehouse because at this time Rutland annually alternated with Windsor as the seat of Vermont government. But the project required an additional 160 pounds. In October, 1792, the state Legislature gave permission for a lottery to raise the additional sum but required that a 2,000-pound bond be deposited with the county.

On Dec. 30, 1793, the Farmers' Library a predecessor of the Herald, announced the scheme of the lottery and that the drawing of the winning tickets would be held on March 20, 1794. The lottery authorized the sale of 1800 tickets at two dollars each. It provided that 678 winning tickets would return all but \$533 to the purchasers of winning tickets. The top prize was \$400 and there were 654 prizes of three dollars each. There were twenty-three sizeable prizes below the top prize. Tickets were sold for cash or notes of hand, payable immediately after the drawing was published.

Although the managers of the Statehouse lottery were community members of high character and great ability, the lottery was plagued by a mistake that threatened its integrity. The first numbering of tickets had stopped at 1520. When the remainder were numbered, by mistake the numbers were begun at 1501. Thus there were two sets of numbers from 1501 to

1520. The managers discovered this error only after the drawing had begun. They then immediately exchanged and purchased in what had been sold of one set. A prompt explanation was published in the Farmers' Library with an espousal that their prompt action should dispel any charges against the integrity of the lottery.

The state Legislature also authorized lotteries for the benefit of private individuals. In June, 1792, Anthony Haswell established the Herald of Vermont, the first newspaper in Rutland. In September his printing office was destroyed by fire. Since Haswell had no insurance he had great need of a lottery to re-establish his business. However, not all lotteries reached their goals as quickly and efficiently as the Statehouse lottery. By 1796 Haswell had added a year's extension because the previous time allotted had been too short.

A lottery to benefit Captain John Wood, a Pittsford Revolutionary veteran who had fallen upon hard times, ran into problems when he failed to post the required bond with the county court. In 1798, the state Legislature authorized a lottery to aid Joseph Hawkins, a poor blind man. The Rev. Samuel Williams, editor of the Rutland Herald, gave a glowing endorsement to this particular lottery. Top prize in the scheme was \$5,000 which was won by a young lad of nine at the drawing in April, 1800.

Again the tradition of the lottery is before the state Legislature, but with a new wrinkle. This time the general fund of the state is the beneficiary.

5/20

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5/27/75

Bicentennial Perspective — 4

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Public schools have always implied geographic boundaries or districts from which students came. On March 11, 1783, the inhabitants of the town of Rutland appointed a committee of ten to divide school districts.

Once districts were established, redistricting was a continuing process. At March town meeting in 1792, the town appointed a committee of 10 to take under consideration the situation of the 10 school districts in Rutland and report their opinion at a future date. The committee

comprised one representative from each district. In May, 1792, the town voted to accept the report of the committee which established four districts in the West Parish. In June, 1792, the town voted to make three north school districts in the East Parish into two.

In the process of redistricting, individual family farms were included or excluded from a given district seemingly on a basis of



personal preferences. On March 14, 1794, the town voted that all the inhabitants living on the home farm of Matthias Ames would be set off as one entire school district. On March 1, 1796, the town voted to create a new and entire school district, north of the north lines of Isaac Chatterton and Joseph Humphrey.

At town meeting in March, 1798, the town voted to appoint a committee of three from each school district in the East Parish "to examine into the situation of such district and shall notify said committee of any uneasiness as to the present boundaries and make to the next town meeting a report of such alterations as they believe would better accommodate said districts."

Problems of redistricting continued into the next century. On March 10, 1801, the town granted the petition of Samuel Campbell Jr. and others to unite two school districts into one, with the exception that Dr. Daniel Reed was at liberty to join any other district. At the same meeting Amos Himes, John Fenton

and Jedidiah Walker petitioned to move from their present school district to the third district. And their petition was certainly not to be the last.

The problems of establishing school district lines in Rutland have a long tradition. And in that tradition individual preferences and petitions have played a large role.

by Brickman



5-27
BRICKMAN

Bicentennial Perspective — 5

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON 6/8/75

During the dark days of the American Revolution, Rutland people surprisingly found time and energy to begin what was to be a lengthy and contentious dispute over a highway location.

On May 10, 1780, at one of Rutland's earliest town meetings, nine road surveys were accepted by a town vote. Controversy and court action soon followed.

William Roberts initiated a series of lawsuits against Benjamin Whipple, Esquire, and others, at the Superior Court held at Tinnmouth in June, 1780. One case was settled by a jury award of 10 pounds in favor of Roberts. In another case, considered at the August term of the Superior Court in Bennington, the jury found Whipple and the other defendants not guilty as charged. The other lawsuits were continued through the Superior Court sessions in Bennington in August and December, 1780, and the sessions in Tinnmouth in January and August, 1781.

Meanwhile, at a town meeting on Jan. 4, 1781, the town voted to allow Benjamin Whipple to draw money from the town treasury to carry on the lawsuits in the highway dispute with William Roberts. However, at the annual meeting of the Town of Rutland on March 13, 1781, the freeholders voted to reconsider their approval of the disputed highway. At a town meeting on May 17, 1781, the town voted to leave the dispute to a committee of three from neighboring towns to settle. At an adjourned town meeting on July 16, 1781, they chose Captain Samuel Williams and Colonel James Claghorn to draw instructions for the committee which was to settle the dispute between the town and William Roberts. On Sept. 24, 1781, the town voted not to add two men to the committee to settle the dispute. They then voted to dismiss the committee from acting, replacing it with a two man committee, consisting of Ichabod Tuttle and William Barr, to assist the selectmen in settling the affair.

On Sept. 3, 1782, the town voted to let the highway dispute between the town and William Roberts stand as it was. On Dec. 2, 1782, William Roberts proposed submitting his highway dispute with the town to a committee. But the town voted this proposal down. On Dec. 6, 1782, the town voted not to pay William Roberts damages for the road going through his land which a Supreme Court jury in Tinnmouth had assigned him in August. The town then reconsidered and voted to pay.

In Aug., 1783, a Supreme Court jury found in favor of William Roberts against Benjamin Whipple in the sum of one pound. The court then assessed double damages according to statute and costs totaling 15 pounds, 14 shillings and 6 pence. In another case the jury found in favor of William Roberts against Benjamin Whipple in the sum of 15 shillings.

On September 3, 1783, the town voted to settle the highway dispute with William Roberts provided that he would settle on reasonable terms. Captain Nathaniel Blanchard, Colonel James Claghorn and Captain Samuel Williams were chosen as a committee to arrange this settlement but the town then refused to accept Roberts' proposals for settlement. Then the town voted to raise taxes to pay the cost of court, damages etc. which William Roberts had recovered against Benjamin Whipple and others in behalf of the town in a judgment resulting from the highway dispute.

The town voted on May 25, 1784, to defend the selectmen against a lawsuit commenced by William Roberts against the town concerning his damages. Daniel Squire was selected agent to defend the town at court. The town voted that a committee composed of Colonel James Claghorn, Ebenezer Pratt and Benjamin Whipple, Esquire, would give what light and service they could to Squire.

On March 8, 1785, the town voted Aaron Reed, Lieut. Samuel Campbell and Daniel Squire to be a committee to treat with William Roberts regarding the highway dispute between him and the town and to see to what terms he would agree. On April 13, 1785, the town voted to accept an offer of William Roberts that he would give up 35 pounds and 10 shillings of the award granted by a former committee to determine damages for a road going through Roberts' farm, and that he would withdraw his satisfaction against the town which he won in a trial commenced in June, 1784. Further, Roberts stated that he would give the town a full and ample discharge from the lawsuit and from the judgment of the committee and that all matters respecting the road would be referred to a new committee appointed by the court. That committee consisted of Samuel Mattocks, Elisha Clark and Jonathan Spafford.

At the August, 1785, term of the Supreme Court in Rutland the case of William Roberts vs. the Selectmen of Rutland was called out of court. After recurrent controversy for five years, the issue was apparently settled.

The location of a highway to bypass Rutland has once again generated lengthy controversy and court action in the Rutland area. Times change less than imagined.

Colonel James
Claghorn
1780-1785



WILLIAM ROBERTS
BENJAMIN WHIPPLE
DANIEL SQUIRE
CAPTAIN SAMUEL WILLIAMS
COLONEL JAMES CLAGHORN
CAPTAIN NATHANIEL BLANCHARD

EBENEZER PRATT
AARON REED
SAMUEL CAMPBELL
JONATHAN SPAFFORD

SAMUEL MATTOCKS
ELISHA CLARK

WILLIAM ROBERTS
BENJAMIN WHIPPLE
DANIEL SQUIRE
CAPTAIN SAMUEL WILLIAMS
COLONEL JAMES CLAGHORN
CAPTAIN NATHANIEL BLANCHARD

EBENEZER PRATT
AARON REED
SAMUEL CAMPBELL
JONATHAN SPAFFORD
SAMUEL MATTOCKS
ELISHA CLARK

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Bicentennial Perspective — 6

By JAME S. DAVIDSON

Today many American minorities are receiving a reconsideration of their place in American life. Among these are the American Indians.

In 18th Century Rutland, white relationships with the Indians ran the gamut from friendly cooperation to a feeling of degradation. In March, 1770, when Col. James Mead, the first permanent white

settler in Rutland, arrived with his family to occupy the cabin he had built the previous fall, he found it uninhabitable. Nearby a group of Caughnawaga Indians were trapping. Mead asked to share their quarters and the Indians graciously gave up their hut and built another nearby for themselves.

Although many Indians joined the British and Tories in destructive raids on the settlers of Vermont, others like Captain John Vincent fought on the side of the Americans. Vincent fought in the Battle of Bennington. Yet in 1804 he lived near Rutland, supported only by hunting, handicrafts and 25 dollars a year for food and blankets from the State of Vermont.

An incident in December, 1797, illustrated well the degradation that the Indian might receive in Rutland, though it was clear that not all Rutlanders approved.

Prior to the Revolution Jonathan Carver had explored in what is now Minnesota. He claimed to have received a gift of a large tract of land from the Nadowessie (Sioux) Indians. His claims were never confirmed but in 1794 Edward Houghton, a Vermonter, purchased the questionable rights to these lands from the heirs of Carver for 50,000 pounds. Subsequently there were many complaints because of the failure of the Carver land titles.

In mid-December, 1797, an Indian king and queen, supposed by some to be of the tribe (Sioux) that conveyed to Carver his lands, were caught and taken into custody by the Rutland jailor, a man by the

name of Whitaker, on suspicion of conveying these lands to Carver. Apparently, in the minds of some of the populace, the Indians were responsible for the failure of the Carver land titles.

Even though arrested and held on rather spurious grounds, the Indians were due an even further affront. They were taken from the jail in Rutland under the supervision of the jailor, Whitaker, and with a considerable number of spectators they were brought to the intersection of roads in Pittsford near the public inn. There preparations were made for the punishment of the Indian victims who were "precipitated up between the heavens and the earth, and confined in irons..."

A letter to the Rutland Herald, which described this affair, expressed the feeling that it was hardly one worthy of public admiration and respect but rather more suitable as a spectacle for drunks. Another letter ventured the opinion that there was a real question as to whether these Indians had committed any crime whatever. Punishment did not always seem to fit the crime in eighteenth century America, especially if the suspect was an Indian.

Justice to the Indian might not be thought to concern Vermont or Rutland in particular. But is that because of the innocence of Rutland and Vermont or the enormity of the injustice in other states of the United States?



6/10/75

FOR ALMOST 200 YEARS...

Bicentennial Perspective — 7

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Frequently newspapers remind their readers that paperboys should receive prompt payment for their services. Near the end of the 18th Century the situation in the Rutland area had many similarities but also some differences when compared with conditions today. The "paperboy" was usually a little older and called a "postrider," as he traveled on horseback and usually carried mail also. On occasion he even made small purchases for his customers.

On Sept. 11, 1797, Jeremy Dwyer, a postrider from Rutland through Ira, Castleton, Hubbardton, Sudbury, Whiting, Cornwall, Middlebury and New Haven, entered the following poetic plea for pay in the "Rutland Herald:"

"Old customers and neighbours all,
I pray attend unto my call;
Now hear me chant my doleful ditty,
Which calls for patience, and your pity.
Tis two years now and something more,
Since I began my northern tour;
In rain or shine I weekly go,
Nor mind the vain assaults of snow.
In fair of foul, in dry or wet,
In winter's cold or summer's heat,
I climb your hills as steep or steeper,
Than roof of house, then sink much deeper,
And find myself involv'd in mire.
Up to old Jacob's hips or higher,
Tis by my labours, strifes, and toils,
That you have heard of European broils;
Of kings depos'd, of tyrants dead,
Of cities ransack'd, armies fled;
Of dread Bellona's fiery car,
And all the vast intrigues of war.
These services you can't deny,
As Jacob's bones will testify:
In spreading this important news,
I've spoilt my cloaths, my boots and shoes.
My printer's bill has swell'd so high,
With my request you must comply;
And now without notice or delay,
My small demands you'll quickly pay.
Or else I fear that our next meeting,
Will by authority be greeting
Sign'd by his worship, —, Esquire
So then you'll know, that I am
J. DWYER.

A month later, on Oct. 16, 1797, the following poem appeared as the "customers' answer to the postrider's request:"

"Dear comrade, friend, or neighbor DWYER,
Sir, e'er you send your —, sign'd 'squire,
Let us just whisper in your ear,
Your boasts and threats bring little fear;
You've truly bro't great informations,
Of toils and broils of other nations;
How th' British lion's lost much souse,
And lib'ring kingdoms bourn a mouse,
How Buonaparte, in countries far,
With speed is driving vict'ry's car,
That Edmund Burke, of late, is dead,

And poor M' Lane has lost his head;
That Thomas Paine, with all his clan,
Are scribbling for the 'Rights of Man';
See Tom, (perhaps some out of season)
Triumphant in his 'Age of Reason';
But these are distant barren themes,
Mere nonsense, trifles, idle dreams.
But you amongst us oft diffuse
more int'resting important news,
Fresh from your politician club,
Who'd fain deceive the ign'rant mob —
Whose sly remarks you oft intrude,
Upon the thoughtless multitude —
Season'd with puns, and jests & jeering,
Of deep intrigues of 'lectioneering.
Now see your 'Freeman' & 'Fairplay,'
Who each like dog has had his day.
See other writers in their train,
Who've spent their time and ink as vain,
Observe them issue forth their jokes,
Frame governors as season'd oaks —
See Moball too, sublime and wise,
Oft thund'ring from the northern skies,
Or else behind potatoe crib,
As loading deep his 'cannon squib,
Ram'd full with num'rous balls & powder,
That so report might be the louder —
Then, casting round a ghastly look,
From off fame's altar quick he took
The sacred brand an elm or bass coal,
It catch'd, alas, but flash'd at air hole
To make the rhyme thro', unpolite,
And 'twill we hope, no sould affright —
Should we deny these facts, we fear,
Old Jacob's self would soon appear,
With his posteriors dub'd in marl,
And grin like dog about to snarl,
With vengeance flashing from his eye,
And face to face, give us the lie;
We grant these things — But 'tis too true,
You stay'd at home few weeks ago,
And three weeks, if we right remember,
In the cold month of last December,
Now in this interval so long,
To shorten, sir, our lengthy song,
Might not we pray one half the world
Been to its native chaos hurl'd —
And e'en the flames consum'd our town,
E'er we the fact too late had known,
What good, we pray, will Heralds do us,
Except they cry when dangers wait us?
Bring on your bill without delay,
We'd reckon fair, if we ne'er pay —
In hopes you will your ways amend,
Each views himself yet still your friend,
When you reform yourself, sir, then,
Unto your threats we'll say — AMEN.

Although there were two sides to the story and today's paperboy may not be as creative as Dwyer, still his need for pay is just as real.

Reprint From Our Editorial Page Of June 17, 1975

WE HAVE TOLD BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY...

RUTLAND



HERALD

A Vermont Newspaper Since 1794

6/24/75

Bicentennial Perspective—8

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Seldom do the users of water faucets reflect upon the miracle within. Water is so necessary to man, yet its accessibility is so often taken for granted. But it was not always so.

In the late 18th Century, Rutland turned to the mountains to the east as a source of cool, fresh water which was transported to the town's main street through an ingenious system of

wooden pipes. Pine logs, with a three inch diameter hole bored through the length of the log, formed the pipes for this system. One end of the log was shaped to fit the other end of a log that was flared. A metal band then secured the junction. These pipes were then buried in a two foot deep trench. Above the ground at the subscriber's home there was a water post from which water could be tapped by a spigot. The Rutland Historical Society currently has some portions of these old pipes on exhibit.

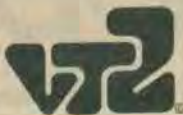
The idea of a water system in early Rutland appears to have had its birth in the minds of Judge Samuel Williams and some other

imaginative residents in the center of the East Parish. Gershom Cheney, a builder who came to Rutland in 1793, constructed a major portion of the project. On Feb. 10, 1794, an ad in the Rutland Herald sought 800 rods of pine logs, 12 feet in length and from 10 to 20 inches in diameter, to be delivered near the square in Rutland. The ad, sponsored by Samuel Williams, Nathan Osgood, Elias Buell, John Gove and Samuel Walker, also solicited the excavation of a ditch 800 rods (two and one-half miles) long and two and one-half feet deep. Whether this ad signified the beginning or the end of the project is not clear. However, by July 30, 1798, the system was apparently functioning for on that day an ad in the Rutland Herald offered \$1000 to a person who would keep the water works in the East Parish in repair for 10 years. The job required only two or three months labor in each year, however, it was necessary for the person to be constantly near the works.

On Nov. 4, 1800, the proprietors of the water system or aqueduct were incorporated into the Aqueduct Company by an act of the Legislature. An inventory showed there were 43 proprietors with a grand total of 49 water posts in use on Dec. 12, 1800.

On November 24, 1800, the proprietors met to organize. They appointed Capt. William Jenkins and Trowbridge Maynard as a committee to superintend the aqueduct. Israel Smith, Cephas Smith, Jr., and Samuel Walker, all Rutland attorneys, were appointed a committee to prepare a code of bylaws for the regulation of the system. In January, 1801, the bylaws were completed. Among them was the requirement that each owner was to secure his water post from frost. Altering the gauge of a water post or destroying any portion of the system would result in a fine of not more than \$20 nor less than \$1.

The water system that the citizens of Rutland established nearly 200 years ago has served the community well. Hopefully, the citizens of 200 years in the future will judge the accomplishments of the late 20th Century as well.



Bicentennial Perspective

By JAMES DAVIDSON

The celebration of the Fourth of July has had an uneven history. In times of peace there has been little, if any, public celebration. In times of national crisis, feelings of nationalism have led to a community-wide outpouring of patriotic fervor.

In 18th Century Rutland there were many years in which there was apparently little community-wide celebration of the Fourth of July.

The drinking of a few toasts at the local inn was to a great degree the sum and substance of patriotic celebration. Most people seemed too busily involved in everyday tasks to appropriate time, money and energy to a large celebration.

But in 1798 and 1799 a surge of nationalistic feeling stimulated a large and impressive celebration of the Fourth of July.

In 1798, a cannon salute greeted the dawn. At noon a procession moved from the Federal Eagle, displayed on the Common near the courthouse, up Main Street to the meetinghouse to the tune of the President's March. Governor Isaac Tichenor was among the honored participants. At the meetinghouse there was an oration by the Reverend Heman Ball and a major address by Thomas G. Fessenden, a young Rutland lawyer. Fessenden stressed the importance of a united nation in the face of the dangers posed by the French Directorate. An ode, composed and set to music by Fessenden, was performed by a choir of singers under the direction of Thomas H. Atwell. The procession then returned to the Common to the tune of Yankee Doodle. At the Common there was a dinner followed by 16 patriotic toasts which were accompanied by the roar of cannon.

At Captain Hennessey's Inn there was an entertainment for the ladies who had been requested to attend the day's festivities. In the evening there was a dance with numerous songs. The Rutland Herald made the comment that there had not been a larger crowd in Rutland and everything had been carried out in very good order.

In 1799, the order of celebration was much the same yet a more military tone was present. Captain John Smith's Cavalry Company, Captain Henry Chipman's Artillery Company and Captain John Butler's Infantry Company led the procession to the meetinghouse. At the meetinghouse the Reverend Heman Ball offered prayer. The Declaration of Independence was read by Nathan Osgood. The Rutland Ode, composed by Thomas

Fessenden, was again performed by a choir directed by Thomas H. Atwell. Nathan Osgood then delivered the principal address of the day in which he justified Jay's Treaty with Great Britain and defended the Alien and Sedition Laws. National unity was urged to destroy the demon of party faction. The exercises were closed by the performance of the *Genius of Columbia*, an ode written for the occasion by Dr. Timothy Todd and set to music by the Reverend C. Lee.

Upon their return to the Common, the participants partook of a plentiful dinner. Numerous patriotic toasts were drunk and salutes fired. At sunset the national flag was struck, a cannon discharged and the participants dispersed. The Rutland Herald was impressed with the order and propriety of the whole affair. The excellence of the performances at the meetinghouse was equally lauded. It was noted, to the honor of the manufactory in Rutland, that Captain Butler's Company were completely armed with excellent new muskets and bayonets which were manufactured in Rutland.

In 1800 Rutland returned to a minimum of celebration of the Fourth of July which consisted of dinner and toasts at Major William Lee's Inn. Captain Simeon Lester's Company of Artillery went to Middletown to participate in the Fourth of July celebration there.

In 1801 there was again a gathering, albeit modest, in the West Parish of Rutland. A speech by the Reverend Lemuel Haynes stressed that party spirit should be avoided and that government posts should be assigned on the basis of merit, not party.

Fourth of July celebrations in 18th Century Rutland varied in tone and extent as they were influenced by the changing temper of the times. A glance at the past gives one perspective on the celebration of the nation's birthday. However, what may be the proper celebration of the Fourth of July is a question involving many perspectives.



Bicentennial Perspective — 10

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The 18th Century newspaper office usually printed and sold more than just newspapers. In Rutland, the Reverend Samuel Williams, editor of the Rutland Herald, became involved in numerous publishing ventures. One of these was The Vermont Almanac and Register. This almanac contained the usual data



concerning the sun, the moon and the weather. In addition there was a page of suggestions to the farmer called the "Farmer's Callender." Over half of the July "Farmer's Callender" for 1799 was devoted to haymaking, still an important activity in Vermont.

"The first thing to be considered about haymaking is the time of cutting the grass. It should not be cut too early, or before it has got its growth. For this will cause it to shrink too much in drying. On the contrary, it should not stand too late, or till the seed be ripe. It is not only harder to cut, but the ripeness of the seed will cause it to shatter out while drying, which will be a considerable loss, as the seed is the most rich and nourishing part; and the soil will be the more exhausted by nourishing the seed till it comes to maturity, and the next succeeding crop will be still poorer. There can never be any advantage to mowing late, unless it be thickening the grass roots where they were before too thin."

Cutting hay was not an easy chore in the 18th Century for it was all

done by the hand scythe. The "Farmer's Callender" urged the farmer to cut the ripest and thinnest first; rake and cock it every afternoon, before the dew fell; open it the next day and cart it while it was warm.

Nor was haymaking the farmer's only concern in July. He was reminded not to neglect his garden. He should sow peas for fall, hoe his cabbages while the dew was on them, hill his Indian corn, and gather herbs to be dried while they were in full bloom.

The July heat led the editor to caution the farmer that the cattle were to receive salt often and that the farmer and his help should not "drink too plentifully of cold water, when hot."

July is still haymaking time for many a 20th Century Rutland County farmer. Perhaps now is an appropriate time to reflect on haymaking as it was nearly 200 years ago, before technology changed so much of our lifestyle for good or ill.

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — II

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The literary production of 18th Century Rutland was not sizable in quantity but was superior in quality. Even though small, the quantity was notable for a town the size of Rutland at such an early period in its development.

Nathaniel Chipman was the author of the first book published in Rutland by a Rutland resident. Whether the title which should receive this accolade was

"Reports and Dissertations" (1793), a compendium of Vermont legal precedents, or "Sketches of the Principles of Government" (1793) is uncertain. Both were authored by Chipman. Although Reports and Dissertations carries a Rutland imprint that is prior to Sketches of the Principles of Government, doubt as to its accuracy is raised by the fact that the printing office was burned three or four months earlier and apparently never restored. Another printer published Sketches of the Principles of Government. Chipman was a graduate of Yale College in 1777 and was admitted to the bar in 1779. In the late 1780's he became the acknowledged leader of Federalist influence in Vermont and took the lead in bringing Vermont into the Union. In 1791 he became the first judge of the U.S. Federal District Court of Vermont.

In 1794, the Rev. Samuel Williams published "The Natural and Civil History of Vermont" which was printed in Walpole, N.H. The book gained a reputation as the best history of Vermont to that date. Even today it is considered one of the finest sources of 18th Century Vermont history. Williams had had a significant educational background prior to his removal to Rutland and the publishing of his history. He received a B.A. from Harvard College in 1761 and an M.A. in 1764. From 1780 to 1788 he was a member of the Harvard faculty. In October, 1794, Williams and Samuel MacKay of Williams College proposed publishing a monthly magazine called The Rural

Magazine or Vermont Repository. In December, 1794, Williams, in association with Judge Samuel Williams of Rutland, acquired the Rutland printing office and began publishing the Rutland Herald. In early 1795 the first monthly issue of The Rural Magazine appeared. It was a 48-page publication which sold for \$2 a subscription, year. Individual issues could be obtained at one shilling and six pence each. The Rural Magazine was published monthly for two years. At the end of this period Williams ceased the publication due to financial and perhaps editorial fatigue.

A third Rutland author, John A. Graham, found his opportunity for authorship in London, England, while on a trip for the Protestant Episcopal Church of Vermont to secure the consecration of the Reverend Samuel Peters as Bishop of Vermont. He published "A Descriptive Sketch of Vermont" (1797) which provided English readers with a description of the various towns of Vermont.

Numerous sermons, orations, odes and almanacs were also authored by Rutland people and published at the printing office of the Rutland Herald.

Today many of these books and other works sell for prices from \$100 to \$500 each on the current market. Some have been reprinted. As literary works they provide an enjoyable treat for the reader. It is to be wondered if today's literary production in Rutland will be as well assessed 200 years hence, either artistically or financially.



Bicentennial Perspective — 12

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Community development was a theme of some concern even in 18th Century Vermont. In Rutland, Anthony Haswell, editor of the *Herald of Vermont*, devoted three items and a significant portion of his issue of Sept. 10, 1792, to various aspects of community development. Unfortunately it was his last issue of the paper due to a fire at the printing office. Nonetheless much of his concern for a community and a state in which development and the good life could exist side by side bears more than a passing correspondence to 20th Century concerns.



seeking mutual improvement" and a decent musical society. Also the ideal community should be blessed with the absence of intriguing politicians, horsejockeys, gamblers and sots.

Yet Haswell saw the value of manufacturing within the state. "As almost every material expended in carrying on manufactures arises from the earth, the consumption must benefit the agricultural interest of the country, not only in furnishing a market for our raw materials and saving money to the country, but by the number of hands that will be employed in carrying on the different manufactures they may engage in; our home consumption will be increased by its being expanded by the manufacturers, who do not raise their own bread; by which means we shall not entirely be left to precarious foreign markets..."

More specifically Haswell addressed an open letter to the Legislature seeking its encouragement of manufacturing. After noting the encouragement already given learning and the arts, Haswell proclaimed that it was now in the power of the Legislature to properly encourage manufacturers and mechanics "to give a new spring to industry and thereby raise the credit of our mercantile, agricultural and professional

interest. Most other states had done this. "They have formed societies and companies for the purpose, and have given them large loans, donations and encouragements. And it is evident, that in those states where the greatest encouragement has been given, trade has increased proportionably, money is more plentiful, and the merchant on a much more respectable footing than formerly; the reason is, that every article manufactured out of the raw materials of the country, saves the value of it in the country..."

Haswell saw the future of Vermont as a manufacturing country. "When the state has risen to its zenith in population, provisions, wool, flax, hemp, barley, etc. will be cheap, and can be manufactured among us as reasonably and as well as in any other country, if we encourage men of genius and abilities to set up their business in the state. The large quantities of iron ore, fuel etc. might immediately render the iron manufactory extensively useful. We could not only supply ourselves with every necessary and convenience in that line, but could furnish large quantities for exportation. This branch of business requires your immediate attention. Every day's experience must convince you that large sums are daily drained out of the state, for such articles as might be made within it both easily and cheaply. We now pay dear for every article we are obliged to buy. The farmer can not procure his needs at a moderate price and the consequence is obvious. His crops are badly put in, money is scarce and the farmer discouraged, litigious, idle, and in debt to the merchant. In turn the merchant is in debt to his correspondent abroad, trade embarrassed, the merchant despised, the settlement

of the state impeded, and our general credit poor."

A plan to develop manufacturing in the state was then sketched by Haswell. A town in each county would be established as a manufacturing town. This town would be one most likely to be settled "with men of genius and abilities in the different manufacturing and mechanical branches." These towns would then be exempted from state taxes. Other encouragements could also be given.

Adjust for the two centuries intervening and there still remains a description of the agrarian Vermont community grappling with the challenges of modern industrial development, seeking somehow to achieve a living balance.

7/22/75

Bicentennial Perspective — 13

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

People of the 20th Century have no special claim on discouragement and disappointment. An excellent illustration of 18th Century frustrations with society is the career of the Rev. Samuel Williams of Rutland.

Williams began his career of service to society as a minister in Bradford, Mass., in 1765. In 1780 he was called to Harvard College to fill a prestigious professorial chair. His apparently poor judgment in the handling of some trust funds led to his resignation from Harvard in 1788. In 1789 Williams became the pastor of the East Parish in Rutland, and had hopes of establishing a college in Rutland. The college was established in Burlington and Williams continued his preaching. On Dec. 1, 1794, he joined Judge Samuel Williams of Rutland in founding the Rutland Herald and entered upon a newspaper career.

On Dec. 4, 1794, Williams delivered to his flock a sermon that he had given in Bradford, Mass., in 1776. His resignation to earthly discouragement and disappointment was well-expressed in his choice of text from Ecclesiastes, chapter IX, verse 11: "I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

In addition, Williams notified his parishioners, in a rather eloquent manner, of his intention to give up the ministry due to his failure to accomplish much.

"Adverse appearances and events are to be regarded with humiliation and repentance. While we seem to be covered with prosperity and success in our temporal and civil affairs, everything in our religious concerns seems to bear a contrary appearance. And it is with much difficulty that the very form and appearance of religion can be kept up. Every attempt to spread among the people of this state the principles of civil liberty, of historical or scientific knowledge seems to be received, much to their

honor, with their greatest approbation and encouragement. But when the attempt is made to explain and confirm the great principles of natural and revealed religion, scarcely anybody will attend to it, or regard it. I had flattered myself that when greater degrees of improvement and refinement should be introduced among us, there would be more decorum, regularity and decency in our religious assemblies and appearances. But I cannot discover any appearances of the kind. A minister for a considerable part of the time must preach almost to the bare walls, and see one part of public worship laid aside, as if it depended upon the fancy or humor of the converts.

"In such things I find such discouragements that I cannot see a prospect of being very useful in an office treated with so much neglect and inattention. And though I do not mean to make any sudden resolutions, I have it in contemplation, when I have fulfilled my engagements with you, not to pursue a calling in which no good can be done unless the people will attend.

"But leaving future events to the providence of God, I think we may all find much to humble us in the view of our religious affairs; much that ought to be repented of, and much that ought to be amended. And while we view the divine mercies with gratitude and praise, we ought to view our abuse of those mercies with repentance and humiliation."

How many servants of society might wish to echo the sentiments of Williams today?



Bicentennial Perspective — 14

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Extremely hot summer weather has always been a topic for news and comment. The first issue of Anthony Haswell's "Herald of Vermont" on June 25, 1792, noted that on June 20, 1792, at 1 p.m. the temperature in Rutland was 93.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Haswell commented that the weather had not been hotter for several years.

On Aug. 10, 1795, the Rev. Samuel Williams, editor of the Rutland Herald, commented that the weather during the previous week was the hottest that he ever remembered. From 1780 to 1786, Williams had made meteorological observations at Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., and the greatest heat he had recorded was 96.5 degrees. On Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1795, the heat in Rutland was 93 degrees. On Thursday, it was 95.5 and on Friday it rose to 99 degrees.

The low temperature for the week was 65 degrees. Williams made his observations on a thermometer made by Naicurne which was nicely graduated. It was placed in the open air in a north window on South Main Street at some distance from any other building.

Williams had kept meteorological data for eight years at Harvard and upon his arrival in Rutland in 1789 had continued his habit at least until 1791. When he founded the Rutland Herald in 1794 he published the weekly high and low temperatures until May, 1796, when his printer, James Kirkaldie became ill. Kirkaldie died and the high and low temperatures of the week did not appear again as a regular feature in the 18th Century Herald. Williams, however, maintained his interest in meteorological records as was evidenced in the second edition of his "Natural and Civil History of Vermont" which he published in 1809. It not only included meteorological data but updated the

data to include some from the 19th Century.

Thus, nearly 180 years ago, on Aug. 7, 1795, Rutland reorded an 18th Century high of 99. Even with that extremity of heat, it is still to be wondered if 18th Century folk didn't find adaptation to the heat easier than 20th Century folk who fight it with air-conditioning and electric fans.



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As garden crops begin to ripen in the mid-summer's sun it seems that animals of all sizes and descriptions begin to wander into local gardens, sampling and trampling as they go.

In 18th Century Rutland this problem received attention in the earliest town meetings. On May 10, 1780, the town voted to build two pounds to contain stray animals. One pound was located on the west side of town near Colonel James Mead's house. The other was located on the hill near the east side schoolhouse. On March 28, 1782, the town voted to allow swine to roam on the commons but they had to be properly yoked. The next year at March town meeting the town voted that swine should not run at large and that rams should be confined from the middle of August to the middle of November. A penalty of three shillings was set for violations of the ordinance confining rams.

In the next decade the town frequently restated its restrictions on rams and swine running at large. At the March town meeting in 1794 the town voted that any ram taken up running at large, contrary to the law, would be forfeited to the person taking it up. In 1797 the town voted to restrain all sheep and swine from running at large.

Although sheep and swine received the attention of the town's restrictions on straying animals, they were not the only wanderers.

Numerous newspaper advertisements identified horses and cattle as frequent wanderers who nearly as frequently broke into another farmer's enclosure.

Some of these wanderings resulted in penalties for damages caused. An entry from the daybook of the Rev. Samuel Williams noted a settlement on Nov. 11, 1799, from three neighbors for damages done to his garden by horses and cows. Three horses and two cows belonging to Cephas Smith Esquire, a cow belonging to Jonathan Bell Esquire, the sheriff, and a cow belonging to Frederick Hill Esquire apparently had a feast in the Williams garden. An appraisal of the damages resulted in a total settlement of \$1.25. Of course this represented a good day's wages in 1799. Peculiarly the damage caused by horses was assessed at 18 pence for each horse yet the damage caused by each cow was assessed at 9 pence each.

Whether gardens are pestered by animals domestic or wild, the problem has existed for ages immemorial. And though this thought does not solve the problem, it may serve to place it in proper perspective.



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the 18th Century Rutland did not have an institutionalized program of mental health care. Still the people did care and attempted to provide as they could for those in need of assistance.

Moses Andrews was Rutland's first recorded mental health problem. On April 8, 1793, he left his house in a delirious condition to which he was often subject. He went into the woods and was not heard from for two weeks. The Farmer's Library on April 22, 1793, advertised the concern of his relatives who felt that he might have crossed the Green Mountains. He was described as a man between 30 and 40 years of age with a small scar over each eye. He wore a brown short coat and vest and overalls of the same color. His brothers in Rutland offered to reward persons providing information regarding his whereabouts. On May 6, 1793, Moses was found in the woods of the east part of Clarendon. He was still in a condition described as "crazy."

Two other incidents relating to insanity are recorded in the town treasurer's account book. On May 19, 1798, Darius Chipman, Issachar Reed and Samuel or Stephen Williams were paid 18 shillings for removing "an old crazy woman." On August 9, 1798, Reuben Humiston was paid two pounds and two shillings for removing "an old crazy woman." It is not clear if this

was the same woman or not. Further, there is no indication as to the place to which they were removed. Towns usually tried to remove from town any person who arrived and seemed about to become a town charge. Usually there was an attempt to remove the person who was the liability back to the town from whence the person came.

The community of Rutland was concerned about those with mental health problems even though there was no institution other than the town or family to provide assistance. Although the institutionalizing and professionalizing of mental health care has been a progressive step, still there seems to have been something lost, namely a sense of personal responsibility. As time marches on we note the progress truly made but we often lose sight of the small losses. Perhaps it can all be brought back into perspective.



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As the date for the re-opening of school nears, many parents reflect on the nature of the child's education. An anonymous 18th Century reader of the Rutland Farmer's Library found occasion in August of 1793 to write the following observations on the education and upbringing of a child. Although all will not agree with the conclusions of the anonymous author, his observations offer a perspective that goes well beyond the 18th Century.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

"This scripture maxim is like other general maxims; it has its particular exceptions. How often do we see children of the same parents, under the same administration and form of family government, when grown to a state of maturity, and left to the government of their own lives and conduct, as different in their dispositions and pursuits, as if they did not participate the same nature."

"Again we may see the children of parents, of perhaps little regulation or system in government, and as to parental examples, which are said to have great influence, none but a complex scene of immorality, yet their children when at full maturity, have been examples of virtue. And where have we ever seen more striking instances of open profanity, than in the sons of the most strictly pious parents."

"These deviations from the general rule must argue a cause, for causes and effects govern in the moral as well as in the natural world. The first of these, the diversity of children of the same parents and government, may be causes in nature, dependent on numerous contingencies, so obtruse as to require the most nice investigation. As to the other two exceptions, as above, they appear

horses for transportation has existed for a far longer span of history than our recent passion for motors, and the affinity between horse and rider is not to be compared with ownership of however special a Porsche or Stutz Bearcat or even a dear old VW.

This affinity is symbolized in the myth of Pegasus and his heroic rider, Bellerophon, and in the legends of Bucephalus, the great black warhorse who carried Alexander the Great into battle. There are also tales of Rustrum, whose rose-colored horse Raksh (the name means lightning) inspired Persian poets to heights of lyricism; and of Babieca, the unlikely mount of the Spanish knight El Cid; and of El Morzillo, the steed ridden by Cortes in the conquest of Mexico, who became a figure in the Mayan pantheon. Among those closer to our time are Napoleon's warhorse Marengo, Robert E. Lee's Traveller; and, of course, both Justin Morgans.

more plain; for tho' the evil examples in many instances, prove very pernicious to the habits of others, yet the constant beholding those train of evils, misery, poverty, and reproach, the necessary attendants on a scene of vice, that it often proves a more preaching Monitor than thousands of pulpit lectures.

"But why should the sons of the pious be noted for profanity and infidelity; perhaps the reasons assigned for pious Eli's sons may not be all; have they uniformly been taught the same by example as by profession; how far have the devotions of the Sabbath been consonant with the life of the week; and how often have the rigid doctrines been so repugnant to common sense, as not to obtain belief; yet refusing to leave the candid mind to accept or refuse them, but as a medium force them down, or consign the patient to perdition. I am fully convinced that arbitrary enthusiasm and erroneous zeal rigidly enforced has created more infidels than all the deistical writers, and from the same source has been let in almost every other evil and vice."

"I was sensibly struck with the following anecdote of a gentleman of the sword. 'I was (says he) in early life, before I entered service, educated in the rigid principles of puritanism, and required implicitly to believe, tho' I saw no reason to believe. My mother, a pious woman, anxious for the welfare of my body as well as my soul (when a boy) would call me up every Sunday morning, and as she apprehended I was troubled with worms, tho' perhaps no more infested than with original sin; come R----- (says mama) take this worm feed and then say your catechism. After frequently experiencing the bitter dose, without perceiving any good effect, I complied with reluctance; exhortations served me no purpose, except to procure a drubbing; my stomach would heave to repel the reception of the bitter dose, and after down, restrained swallowing. And before my wreakings to puke were over, I had to answer the question what is the chief end of man. This, says he, has taught me so to loath worm feed and catechism, that as a kind parent I will never administer either of them to my children.'"

Whatever the goals we establish for the education of our children, it still remains important to determine the best means to achieve them.



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Bicentennial Perspective — 18

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

On March 9, 1795, the Rutland Herald published an article on newspapers and their educational value to youth. Now, nearly 200 years later, its message still seems timely and worth repeating.

"Much has been said and written on the utility of newspapers; but one principal advantage which might be derived from these publications, has been neglected — we mean that of

reading them in schools, and by the children in families. Try it for one season. Do you wish your child to improve in reading solely, give him a newspaper — it furnishes a variety — some part of which must infallibly touch his fancy. Do you wish to instruct him in geography — nothing will so indelibly fix the relative situation of different places, as the stories and events published in the papers. In fine — do you wish to have him acquainted with the manners of the country or city — the mode of doing business, public or private — or, do you wish to have a smattering of every kind of science useful and amusing, give him a newspaper. Newspapers are plenty and cheap — the cheapest book that can be bought, and the more you buy, the better for your children, because every part

furnishes some new and valuable information. Instead of being a luxury, it is a matter of economy, and the poorest family that exists, may and ought to be furnished with at least one paper per week.

"Encourage newspapers and you encourage learning; encourage learning and you secure the liberties of posterity.

"Learning in the hands of a few, affects nobility; but generally diffused, is an effectual barrier against every invasion of the rights of man. They have the power to mitigate the pains of the afflicted, alleviate the distresses of the sorrowful, check the wild extravagances of the licentious, bring home the prodigal, and, in fine, to do good to all ranks, denominations, characters and situations in life."



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 19

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

On Feb. 15, 1779, the General Assembly of the State of Vermont passed a law that no tavern or innkeeper should have or keep in or about his establishment "any cards, dice, bowls, shuffle boards, or billiards or any other unlawful game or sport" for any money or goods. The penalty for violation was 20 pounds for each offense. Half of this fine went to the informer and half to the treasurer of the town wherein the offense took place.

Yet gambling persisted. The Council of Censors, a group of thirteen Vermont citizens elected every seven years to inquire into the performance of the legislative and executive branches of the state government, reported in 1799 that the law to prevent gambling unfortunately had been greatly disregarded.

The account book of William Jenkins of Rutland recorded two instances of gambling in Rutland. In 1798 an undated entry noted 8 shillings and 6 pence lent to Samuel Prentice "when we shot payers (pairs)." An entry on Sept. 19, 1799, noted debts of 1 pound and 1 shilling by Esquire Cephas Smith and 7 shillings and 6 pence by Samuel Fessenden for "gambling."

On Oct. 24, 1796, a local column on the evils of gambling appeared in the Rutland Herald. The column decried the loss of time and property generally attendant on gambling and concluded by warning of the addictive nature of the vice.

On Nov. 20, 1797, the Rutland

Herald reported the prosecution of gambling houses in the County of Suffolk, Mass. Editor Samuel Williams then expressed his hope that grand jurors in every state would do likewise.

In the East Parish Congregational Church, the Articles of Discipline directed that the church should not tolerate any of its members frolicking, gaming or card-playing. However, the articles were not strictly enforced by the parish.

Although the editor of the Rutland Herald, the Rev. Samuel Williams, opposed gambling he apparently found no conflict in printing and selling playing cards, a practice common to many printing offices of the time. On July 5, 1799, the office sold 5 packs of playing cards to Maj. William Lee and 3 packs to Henry Gould at 75 cents per pack. Although Lee and Gould may have had legitimate uses for the cards, the fact that they were both Rutland innkeepers raises no little suspicion concerning the ultimate use of the cards.

Laws against gambling, then as now, seemed more disregarded than observed.



Bicentennial Perspective — 20

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Music played an important role in both public and private activities in 18th Century Rutland, especially in the last decade of the century.

As early as October, 1794, when the Rev. Samuel Williams delivered the sermon at the opening of the legislative session in Rutland, instrumental and vocal music was provided. In August, 1796, the Rural Magazine included an ode sung on the Fourth of July

of that year. In 1798, Thomas Green Fessenden composed and set to music an ode for the Fourth of July which was performed in a most excellent fashion by "a numerous and brilliant choir of singers" directed by Thomas H. Atwell. On the Fourth of July, 1799, Fessenden's "Rutland Ode" was presented with both vocal and instrumental music and a new ode, "The Genius of Columbia" written by Dr. Timothy Todd, was performed by Atwell's group at the close of the celebration. In 1800 at the assembly mourning the death of George Washington, music of mourning preceded the entourage and a funeral dirge, composed by Thomas Fessenden and executed by Thomas Atwell and the scholars under his instruction, closed the service.

A variety of songs was printed at the printing office of the Rutland Herald and advertised in the paper. "The Country Lover" or "Jonathan's Courtship" was written by Thomas Fessenden and sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." It was heralded as "an excellent specimen of country courtship well worth the perusal of all young gallants — not only as a matter of great entertainment but likewise for the instruction of such as may happen to be in the same predicament with Jonathan when he says:

I wonder mother'll make me go,
When girls I'm so 'fraid of,
I never know'd, nor want to know,
What sort of stuff they're made

of,
Sal ask'd him if his heart was whole,

His chin began to quiver,
He did not know, he felt so droll,
He guess'd he'd lost his liver!"

Young lovers embarking on the voyage of matrimony were advised to purchase such a useful companion.

"The Excelling Election" was written and sung at Rutland on

March 3, 1797, the evening after the election of Col. Matthew Lyon to Congress. It was published and advertised for sale at the printing office on March 5, 1797. Lyon's battle with Griswold in the Congress became the subject of a satirical song, "The Battle of the Wooden Sword" or "The Modern Pugilists" which was published in April, 1798. Vermont patriotism was exhibited in a song, "The Federal Constitution, Boys" or "Liberty Forever," which was published in March, 1799.

In 1798, Thomas Atwell opened a singing school in the West Parish and another in the East Parish. Through the winter he alternated weeks in each parish. In 1799, Atwell expanded his schedule and territory. He proposed to spend Monday in Clarendon, Tuesday at the south part of Rutland, Wednesday at the north part of Rutland, Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the West Parish and Sunday evening at Mr. Gould's in the East Parish.

Both the church and the town government supported music in Rutland in the 18th Century. On Sept. 20, 1798, the East Parish voted to support Thomas G. Fessenden, Abraham Warren, Benjamin Lord and Gershom Cheney as choristers. In November, 1800, Abel Cheney and John Cook filled a vacancy left by Abraham Warren. At the March town meeting in 1800, the town voted the sum of 100 dollars for the encouragement of signing to be appropriated at the discretion of the selectmen.

Citizens of the 20th Century are often surprised at the urbanity of late 18th Century Rutland. Its musical accomplishment and concern seem to be an important part of this urbanity. It might be an interesting turn to speculate on what 18th Century Rutland might think of the musical accomplishment and concern of 20th Century Rutland.



Bicentennial Perspective — 21

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Vermonters have always had numerous opportunities to pursue the sport of hunting. In 18th Century Rutland farmers found hunting not only a sport but a necessity.

As early as the Revolution, the State of Vermont had offered bounties for the destruction of animals that

were threats to the farmer's livelihood. In February, 1779, a bounty of 8 pounds was offered for any grown wolf or panther that was killed. In 1787 the bounty was reduced to 3 pounds but in 1793 it was increased to 6 pounds. In addition, the Constitution for the State of Vermont that was adopted July 4, 1793, guaranteed the liberty of inhabitants of the state to hunt, fowl and fish.

The forays of two 18th Century Rutland hunting parties have been documented, though many others have undoubtedly gone unrecorded. On May 27, 1793, Rutland was the scene of a blackbird hunt. A great deal of corn had been lost to the birds and squirrels. Thus a group of 26 inhabitants of the Otter Creek area carried on an extensive hunt between 5 a.m. and noon. The results of the expedition were gathered at the house of Silas Mead in Rutland and numbered 530 blackbirds and some squirrels.

In the fall of 1799, another hunt was organized. This time the intended victims were squirrels. Two companies of West Parish sportsmen declared war on the devourers of their corn. From Wednesday until the following Monday they did battle against the enemy. On Monday evening the two groups met at Mr. Blanchard's

house in the West Parish. The count of the kill was 1,755 squirrels. The evening was then spent in "civil and amusing discourses."

The contributor of these Rutland news items was a "W.C." (undoubtedly Wait Chatterton) who concluded his second contribution with the following observation: "This mode of diversion is well calculated to give the intellects repose from all kinds of study, and fit the mind for clear and new sallies after truth. The mind that is perplexed with the doctrine of election, may in this way be relieved. Those persons in the above expedition that improved their skill with the best arms and ammunition, got the most scalps; while those who waited on Providence for scalps, and robbed the cat, got few or no scalps yet no one will deny but that squirrels are as much in the knowledge of God, as the sparrows which were valued at the fifth part of one farthing."

In 20th Century Rutland the problem of agricultural pests and their control is still an important concern. Perhaps the bicentennial is a time to view this problem in an historical perspective. The script and the players may be different but the centuries share much the same problem.



Bicentennial Perspective — 22

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The poetry of a people often tells much regarding their values and way of life. Although 18th Century local poetry may not win great acclaim for its artistic accomplishment, it still offers an excellent insight into the life of the times. And occasionally even its level of poetic quality is surprising.

On Aug. 24, 1795, the Rutland Herald published a poem entitled "Constancy." Its theme and its sensitivity may provide the reader with a slightly different perspective on the 18th Century ideal of love and marriage. In addition, its message seems to be one that the 20th Century might find very useful.

Now, Joan, we are married — and now let me say,
Though both are in youth, yet that youth will decay;
In our journey through life, my dear Joan, I suppose,
We shall oft meet a bramble, and sometimes a rose.

When a cloud on this forehead shall darken my day,
Thy sunshine of sweetness must smile it away;
And when the dull vapour shall dwell upon thine,
To chase it, the labour and triumph be mine.

Let us wish not for wealth, to devour and consume;
For luxury's but a short road to the tomb:
Let us sigh not for grandeur, for trust me, my Joan,
The keenest of cares owe their birth to a throne.

Thou shall milk our one cow; and if fortune pursue,
In good time, with her blessing, my Joan may milk two:
I will till our small field, whilst thy prattle and song
Shall charm, as I drive the bright ploughshare along.

When finish'd the day, by the fire we'll regale,
And treat a good neighbor at eve with our ale;
For, Joan, who would wish for self only to live?
One blessing of life, my dear girl, is to give.

E'en the red-breast and wren shall not seek us in vain,
Whilst thou hast a crumb, or thy Corin a grain;
Not only their songs will they pour from the grove,
But yield, by example, sweet lessons of love.

Though thy beauty must fade, yet thy youth I'll remember,
That thy May was my own, when thou shewest December;
And when age to my head shall his winter impart,
The summer of love shall reside in my heart.



Bicentennial Perspective — 23

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The idea of a college in Rutland goes back to the 18th Century. However the reality was to come much later. In a letter to his wife, dated June 22, 1789, the Rev. Samuel Williams wrote that having secured what employment he could from the Congregational East Parish of Rutland, "my whole aim now is to influence and persuade the persons of note here to found a college which I hope to get effected next October when the General Assembly come together. N.B. This must not be mentioned at Cambridge by any means. If I can get this effected I think we shall be in a flourishing state once more." In another letter, dated Sept. 16, 1789, Williams stated that he had been invited to assist in the establishment of a university in Vermont. Whether Williams was the originator or simply a promoter of the idea is not clear, but he stated that it was with this view that he moved to Rutland.

Williams failed to achieve his goal. Although the University of Vermont was chartered in 1791 it was not located in Rutland nor did it graduate a class until 1804. Middlebury College was the first college to send out graduates, holding its first commencement in 1802. It was at Middlebury that Rutland's "persons of note" and their sons first became involved with higher education.

The General Assembly of Vermont

passed an act incorporating a university at Middlebury in November, 1800. Three of Rutland's most prominent men, Nathaniel Chipman, Israel Smith and the Rev. Heman Ball, were trustees by the original charter. Four Rutland young men, Henry Chipman, William Douglas Smith, Jonathan Bell and Thomas Edward Hale, were members of the class of 1804, the first class to spend four years at Middlebury. In May, 1801, Middlebury held the first public collegiate exhibition in Vermont. In the report of the event in the Rutland Herald it was observed that "the experiment making at Middlebury has the fairest prospect of success."

Today Vermont has numerous colleges and Rutland has its own four year college at the College of St. Joseph the Provider. The idea of a college in Rutland took longer than Williams could have anticipated. But good ideas have a way of persevering. The bicentennial is a time to commemorate good ideas as well as good events.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 25

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 18th Century Rutland the equivalent to today's elementary school was supported by local taxes raised in each school district by the committee of the school district. School districts drew an equal part of the monies raised by the town for schools in proportion to the number of children in the district who were between 4 and 20. But

there was also private effort for the sake of education. In 1795 one small district in Rutland erected a bridge over Otter Creek between Mead's Falls (Center Rutland) and Sutherland's Falls (Proctor) for the convenience of the children going to school.

On Jan. 16, 1800, a letter to the Rutland Herald from a "Philanthropos" reported on a school exhibition in the West Parish. Nearly 60 children, male and female, were observed in their spelling, reading, declaiming and dialogues. The students performed well under the guidance of Mr. Southworth, their teacher. The Rutland Herald hoped that this might "convince the world that Vermont is not behind her Sister States in educating her children."

The equivalent to today's high school was the academy which was supported by tuitions. Many students came from some distance; thus they had to consider boarding costs as well as tuition. In 1793, Cavendish Academy announced the

selection of Mr. Joseph Prince, a graduate of Harvard, as its instructor. The curriculum included the rudiments of the English language, the learned languages, writing, arithmetic, geometry, logic, geography, astronomy, natural philosophy and ethics. Books used were Perry's "Sure Guide" and Alexander's "English Grammar" for English; the "Art of Speaking" for oratory; Morse's late edition in geography; Pike on arithmetic, Watts on logic; Furgeson on astronomy; Martin on natural philosophy, Ward's "Element" for geometry and Fordyce for ethics. The charge for this program was 10 shillings and 6 pence per quarter. Boarding costs were additional.

Today, questions of program content and cost continue to perplex those concerned with schools. Perhaps a consideration of the educational opportunities of 18th Century Rutland may help to provide some perspective on the future of education in Rutland.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 24

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Not all marriages in Vermont were stable, even in the 18th Century. Divorce was legally possible although the grounds were limited to adultery, fraudulent contract, or willful desertion for three years with total neglect of duty. When these grounds were satisfactorily proven, the Superior Court could grant a bill of divorce to the aggrieved party who could then lawfully marry again. In addition, seven years absence without knowledge of the partner's whereabouts could also satisfy for a bill of divorce. In 1787, intolerable severity was added as a ground for divorce. Also the court now had the power to grant the wife a part of the husband's estate when she was the innocent party and it was judged expedient to do so.

The divorce process was illustrated in 1800 by Betsey Dickinson of Rutland who presented a request for a bill of divorce to the Supreme Court of Vermont, which was to meet in Rutland. She stated that she was married to Samuel Dickinson of Stillwater, N.Y., on Jan. 1, 1795. She lived with him in full discharge of her wifely duties until he deserted her in September, 1796. He was absent since and his whereabouts were unknown.

Although divorce was possible

and on occasion granted, it was not frequent. It was undoubtedly more often the solution to marital discord when the wife was the aggrieved party.

Many marital problems were openly expressed in a wife's desertion of her husband, whether for good cause or not. Public notice of the problem was often shown in the husband's advertisement which forbade all persons harboring or trusting his wife at his expense, as he would pay no debt of hers after that date. Wives obviously had no recourse to such public economic sanctions as they held little or no property in their own name.

Today divorce is much more common and the grounds for it much more lenient. Yet marital discord, desertion and divorce existed in the 18th Century in Rutland and to believe otherwise presents a false perspective on life two centuries ago.



Bicentennial Perspective — 26

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Sadly but necessarily newspapers have had the duty to report unhappy occurrences as well as joyful ones. Notices of death have regularly been one of the newspaper's duties in reporting all the news and so it was in 18th Century Rutland.

On Nov. 1, 1795, the family of Major Elias Buell suffered the loss of their youngest daughter, Abigail,

age 11, due to the canker rash. One week later on November 8, 1795, Sally Buell, age 15, also was claimed by death. But the Buell family was not alone in suffering the loss of children. In October, 1802, the family of Captain Henry Mead lost three children to dysentery.

Multiple deaths in families were not limited to children. Phineas Kingsley lost his wife, Abigail, on May 20, 1793, after an illness of 12 months. Again in February, 1795, he lost another wife, Anna.

Deaths came from a variety of causes. On April 28, 1796, Jared Post and his two eldest sons set out to cross Lake Champlain in a canoe. A storm arose and all were lost. In December, 1800, Jude Moulthrop was killed by the fall of a tree. Epidemics claimed many lives. In

August, 1800, three adults and five children were claimed by dysentery. On occasion death was the result of evil action. John Wheelock, second son of Eleazer Wheelock, died as the result of liquor forcefully given him by a stranger. He was seven years old.

Death had costs in addition to the personal loss. The funeral of James Kirkaldie, printer of the Rutland Herald, gave an insight into the financial expenses of death. His coffin cost \$1.50 and expenses were \$1.50. Care in his illness cost \$7.

The certainty of death and the uncertainty of its time in 18th Century Rutland was well-attested by the notices of death in the Rutland Herald. Although death at younger ages is less frequent today, its irretrievable impact has not changed.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 27

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Many people would rate the 20th Century as a more charitable century than the 18th Century. However this popular judgment is undoubtedly based on the appearances of institutionalized charity in the 20th Century rather than on any intrinsic superiority of the 20th Century man's moral response to the demands of charity.

Evidence of 18th Century charity offers some perspective on the nature of contemporary charity. 18th Century Rutland saw evidence of charity in both poetry and performance. A poem entitled "Charity in Winter" posed the need for charity in the Rutland Herald of January 20, 1800. The previous summer the friends and neighbors of John Fenton erected and completed a new barn for him in five days. His old barn had been struck by lightning and destroyed.

On November 17, 1800, the Rutland Herald carried news of a letter from the chairman of the committee of correspondence of Philadelphia, Pa., to the President of the Town Council of Providence, R.I., transmitting a draft for \$2,000 "for the use of the poor of Providence, and its districts, who have suffered by the fever. . . ." Nor could Philadelphia be charged with a "holier than thou" attitude. On June 16, 1800, the Rutland Herald had reported that a Magdalen Society had been organized in Philadelphia to aid in restoring to the path of virtue those unhappy females who in an unguarded hour had been robbed of their innocence

and were desirous of returning to a life of rectitude.

In 18th Century Rutland the most obvious evidence of charity can be found in the Town Orders which record the public payments of the town. There are entries for reimbursing individuals for aiding others in their illness, for the relief of families and individuals evidently in need, and for aiding the transient, the aged and the widow.

Among the Town Orders are numerous payments for work on the bridges of the town. This seemed to provide frequent work for large numbers of the men of the town. The payment for bridge work often included rum or hot toddy for the men, at town expense.

Many critics of 20th Century charity complain of the charitable system that they feel contributes so much to those who are undeserving. In their criticism of contemporary charity they extoll 18th Century charity for its lack of "softness". Perhaps 18th Century charity needs a reassessment before its superiority or inferiority to 20th Century charity is judged.



Bicentennial Perspective — 28 ^{11/4}

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Today is Veterans Day, a day to commemorate the national service of all veterans of all wars. Among these wars the American Revolution or the War for Independence certainly claims at least chronological pre-eminence.

Rutland played a central role in Vermont's military operations in the American Revolution. In 1778 the new state government selected Rutland as the Vermont Military Headquarters.

Fort Ranger, which was built in Rutland that year, became the principal supply depot for a chain of forts at Pittsford, Rutland and Castleton. In March, 1779, the Vermont Board of War established a line of defense to the north which followed the north line of Castleton and the north and west lines of Pittsford to the foot of the Green Mountains.

Although battles on Vermont soil numbered only one at Hubbardton in the summer of 1777, the people of Rutland had a high degree of involvement in the many skirmishes and scouting expeditions throughout the war. Nearly 200 Rutland men, estimated to be over 80 per cent of the male population of military age, served at least a few days on military duty with the Vermont militia. Many served frequently and several volunteered to serve with the Continental Army and saw duty outside the Republic of Vermont.

Rutland's revolutionary sentiment was well illustrated by an incident that occurred in 1777 when Burgoyne's army was moving

south into the Champlain Valley. A scouting party of Indians and Tories came to Rutland which had been nearly deserted by people fleeing in front of Burgoyne's advance. Nathan Tuttle was one of the inhabitants who remained in Rutland. On this occasion, Nathan, who had been drinking very freely, met Solomon Johns and Gustavus Spencer, two of the area's more notorious Tories. They accosted and threatened Tuttle who in turn dared them to touch him. As a consequence Johns ran him through with a bayonet, killing him instantly. They weighted his body and threw it into Otter Creek below the Little Falls (Mead's Falls) and escaped. Although foolhardy, Tuttle's behavior well represented the fiercely independent attitude of Rutland's early inhabitants during the American Revolution.

There is no record that Nathan Tuttle ever served formally in the militia but perhaps the true meaning of Veterans Day is to be found in the attitude and commitment of the involved rather than in their specific actions.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 29 ^{11/11}

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The 18th Century poet had the ability to perceptively observe the times in which he lived with tongue in cheek. This is exemplified in a poem entitled "The Times" which appeared in the Rutland Herald on July 17, 1797. Although intended to comment on 18th Century life perhaps it has more than passing relevance to the 20th Century.



Of all the ages ever known,
The present is the oddest;
For all the men are honest grown,
And all the women modest.

No constant wives at home are left,
To search for worthless creatures;
Of constancy they're not bereft,
Nor of their pleasant features.

No lawyers now are fond of fees,
No clergy of their dues;
No people at the play one sees,
At church no empty pews.

Our frugal taste the state secures,
Where then can woes begin?
For luxury's turn'd out of doors,
And prudence taken in.

No courtiers now their friends deceive
With promises of favor;
For what they make them once believe,
Is done and done forever!

No pleasure chaises fill the streets,
Or crowd the road on Sunday;
So horses, lab'ring thro' the week,
Obtain a respite one day.

Our nobles! Heaven defend us all;
I'll nothing say about 'em.
For they are great and I am small;
So, muse, jog on without 'em.

All gaming, tricking, swearing, lying,
Are grown quite out of fashion;
For modern youth's so self denying,
It flies all lawless passion.

Our gentry are a virtuous race,
Despising earthly treasures;
Fond of true honor's noblest chace,
And quite averse to pleasures.

Happy the nation thus endow'd,
So void of wants and crimes;
Where all are rich and none are proud,
Oh! These are glorious times!

The ladies dress so plain indeed,
You'd think them Quakers all;
Witness the cushionings on their heads,
So comely and so small.

"Your character," (with wondering stare)

No tradesman now forsakes his shop,
For politics or news;
Nor takes his dealer at a hop,
Thro' interested views,

Says Tom, "is mighty high sir,
But pray forgive me, if I swear,
I think 'tis all a lie sir."

No soaking sot neglects his spouse,
For mugs of mantling nappy;
Nor taverns tempt him from his house,
Where all are pleased and happy.

"Ha! Think you so, my honest clown,
Then take another sight on't;
Just turn the picture upside down,
I fear you'll see the right on't."

Bicentennial Perspective — 30

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Medical professionalism in Rutland had an early beginning. Dr. Jacob Roebach was the first known doctor in Rutland and was practicing medicine in the area before the Revolution. After the Revolution Dr. Ezekiel Porter and Dr. Daniel Reed joined the ranks of other Rutland doctors. In 1784 Dr. Porter and Dr. Roebach joined with other doctors from Rutland and Bennington Counties to incorporate the First Medical Society of Vermont.

The purposes of the Society were to encourage the professors of the medical art, "to excite them to improve and to acquire a thorough acquaintance with a science so interesting to those who may be in distress through indisposition of body and limbs." The Society was empowered to maintain a library and equipment for experimental purposes, to punish any of its members for dishonorable professional conduct and to examine candidates for the profession.

In November, 1795, the members of the Rutland County District of the First Medical Society met and formed a District Society. Dr. Samuel Shaw addressed the group on the application, operation and effects of opium. The District Society also examined and recommended Jonathan Shaw and Enos Bell. However, as in most human endeavors, not everyone agreed with the determination of the Society. A letter to the public from a man present at the examination of Mr. Shaw and Mr. Bell indicated that there was a serious question of their preparation to practice medicine. On January 18, 1796, the Rutland Herald carried a notice that at the request of Mr. Enos Bell, a candidate for the practice of physic and surgery, Ezekiel Porter, Darius Matthews

and Daniel Reed, all Censors of the First Medical Society of Vermont, carried out a long and critical inquiry and concluded that Mr. Bell was duly qualified to practice the above arts. The recommendation to the public was further supported by Timothy Todd, President of the First Medical Society, who was present at the examination and fully acquiesced in the report.

At the annual meeting of the First Medical Society in Rutland in January, 1798, it was suggested that a general convention of state physicians be held at Woodstock in June. In April, 1798, Timothy Page addressed the First Medical Society and pointed out the necessity for the Legislature to act to protect the citizen against the quack and the incompetent. He noted that lawyers were so tested by law, why not doctors.

By the summer of 1802, the First Medical Society did not admit candidates for examination unless they had spent three years with a practitioner or had two years of liberal education.

Regulation of the medical profession for the protection of its clients began in this area of Vermont in the 18th Century. Led by Rutland doctors the Society made great progress. But in the bicentennial era successes of the past should not become laurels upon which to rest but rather a stimulus to further attainment.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 31

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the American Revolution cannon were a symbol of power. The presence of cannon in an army not only added to its physical effectiveness in battle but exerted a positive psychological influence on the army possessing an artillery advantage.

Cannon continued to play an important ceremonial role in 18th Century community celebrations after their physical force was no longer needed. Ceremonial artillery and artillery companies participated in nearly every patriotic or political gathering.

On Oct. 16, 1794, 24 inhabitants of Rutland petitioned the Vermont General Assembly to incorporate an artillery company in Rutland. The Governor of Vermont had given the citizens of Rutland custody of a cannon which the petitioners offered to mount and prepare for the field at no expense to the state. Rutland was now an alternate seat of legislation with Windsor and the nearest artillery company was in Fan Haven. This was at an inconvenient and expensive distance for providing cannon for legislative ceremonial occasions. On October 28, 1794, the Legislature incorporated a company of artillery in Rutland. The company was attached to the Third Regiment, Second Brigade, Second Division of the militia of the State of Vermont.

In November the Rutland artillery company chose Samuel Walker, Esquire, as Captain, William Alvord as First Lieutenant and Ebenezer Muzzy as Second Lieutenant. Other members of the company were Robert Graham, Issachar Reed, John Cook, John Claghorn, Eleazer Claghorn, Edward Muzzy, Munson Cook, Samuel Walker Jr., Daniel Baker, Asher Southworth, William Hale, Uri Hill, Christopher Crafts, Christopher Webber, John Butler, Daniel Hickok, Oliver Hickok, Sampson Ladd, Daniel Ladd, Hezekiah Dewey, Nathaniel Page, Robert Densmore, David Densmore, William Baker Jr., Ralph Pomeroy, Daniel Parsons, and Perez Cooper.

At legislative gatherings, election celebrations, and on patriotic occasions Captain Walker's artillery company of Rutland provided military honors.

Afterwards they usually joined the citizens of the town in a meal and entertainment, which often included dancing.

But the Rutland artillery company played more than a ceremonial role in Rutland. In the summer of 1798 the threat of war with France led to the mobilization of American forces to preserve their recently won independence. The Rutland artillery company was the first unit of Rutland men to volunteer into Federal service which they did without exception. In May, 1799, the Rutland artillery company met and it was "earnestly recommended and strictly enjoined, that each individual of said company do evince the firm and unanimous support said company have determined to give to the government, the liberties and religion of our American ancestors, by appearing personally at the usual place of public worship, on each Lord's Day, complete in uniform, during the present menaced situation of our country, and until different circumstances shall seem to allow a less martial appearance." By the middle of the year 1800 the crisis seemed over and the mobilization ended.

Now nearly two hundred years later, Rutland youth have again mobilized to provide a symbolic cannon which is being ceremoniously drawn across southern Vermont to Fort Ticonderoga. Again the symbolism of a cannon and its young artillerists is the heart of a patriotic observance. The bicentennial certainly seems to be a time for exploring the range of Revolutionary symbolism as well as Revolutionary acts.



30-31

11/25

43-3

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

For the great number of economic success stories in our 200 years as a nation there have been numerous stories of economic failure to match. These have occurred in city, town and countryside. Rutland was no exception.



In 18th Century Rutland the early frontier years of subsistence were followed by Revolutionary

conditions that led to an extreme inflation. Vermonters found some relief from the tax burdens of the war by confiscating Loyalist properties, although in Rutland these confiscations numbered only four. After the Revolution there was nearly a decade of "hard times" as the Republic of Vermont attempted to absorb the rapidly growing number of people immigrating into Vermont from the New England states. Many of these people were seeking relief from the depressed economic conditions in the new United States. In 1791 Vermont became the fourteenth of the United States. During the decade of the "nineties" the United States began an era of relative prosperity. Foreign trade grew and many farmers found the markets for their agricultural produce stimulated by overseas demands. Times became relatively profitable.

But what of the individual? The credit system, which made extensive use of notes, had drastic consequences when an individual was called to account. He in turn had to call in all notes owed to him in order to meet his creditors' demands. A vicious ripple effect was thus set in motion and once started there was little chance of stopping it short of jail or insolvency.

Although debtors were confined to jail for inability to meet creditors' claims, the liberty of the jailyard did allow some inmates to work to obtain some relief from their debts. In 1798 the Rutland County jailyard was about a half

mile long and a quarter mile in width. It embraced the commercial center of the town which was located at what is now the intersection of West and Main Streets. But this still severely limited job opportunities for the prisoner.

The final recourse was to petition the state Legislature for an act of insolvency which usually included the surrender of all the individual's property. Failing this, there was often a petition for liberation from jail and suspension of the process for debts. Suspension of debts was usually for a one-year term although some petitioners sought longer terms.

Insolvency and imprisonment for debts was not a respecter of persons. Farmers, craftsmen, military officers, and even a man who had been a selectman two years previously, were victims of the system. Even the dead faced insolvency.

In 1800 the Congress of the United States enacted a bankruptcy law which superseded the power of the state in such matters. The federal district judge in each state was given the power to appoint the commissioners of bankruptcy. Although the problem still arose there was now a different system for relief.

As default and bankruptcy crowd the news, concern is voiced for the economic destiny of the nation's citizens. There is a temptation to find solace in a past which was better. But the superiority of the past is a subject worthy of bicentennial reconsideration.

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As the Christmas season nears its climax one of the great centers of activity in Rutland is the post office. Throughout the year a large amount of political, economic and social communication is carried by the postal service. At Christmastime this service reaches a peak.

Postal service began in Vermont in 1784 when the General Assembly of the Republic of Vermont established the first post offices in five Vermont communities which included Rutland. In 1791 Vermont joined the Union and in June, 1792, a U.S. Post Office was established in Rutland. The first U.S. mail from Bennington arrived on June 23, 1792. By July a regular weekly post from Rutland to Windsor had been established.

Post riders not only carried the mail but also sold and delivered newspapers by subscription. Most were willing to receive their pay in wheat or other farm produce or in old rags. Post riders also sold lottery tickets and frequently made small purchases for their customers.

In February, 1794, the editor of the Rutland Farmers' Library moved his day of publication from Monday to Wednesday. This move was dictated by the scheduled late arrival of the southern mail on Sunday evening and the early departure of the mail on Monday morning. The time gap for the southern news was then five days less for the weekly newspaper.

In May, 1795, the postmaster general of the U.S. directed that the mail be carried from Rutland to Burlington every week. This also meant weekly delivery of the Rutland Herald to customers on this route whereas before they had only received the papers once in two weeks.

In July, 1797, the U.S. Post Office advertised for proposals for carrying the mail on its routes in Vermont. There was a weekly route from Rutland to Windsor which left Rutland by 7 a.m. on Monday and arrived at Windsor by 6 p.m. on Tuesday. The return left Windsor by 6 a.m. on Wednesday and arrived in Rutland by 6 p.m. on Thursday. A weekly route left Burlington by 8 a.m. on Thursday and arrived in Rutland by 6 p.m. on Saturday. The return left Rutland by 8 a.m. on Monday and arrived in Burlington

by Wednesday noon. A weekly route to Albany by way of Bennington left Rutland by 8 a.m. on Monday and arrived in Albany by 6 p.m. on Wednesday. The return left Albany on Thursday at 8 a.m. and arrived in Rutland on Saturday at 7 p.m. A route from Lansingburgh to Rutland, by way of Whitehall and Fair Haven, left Lansingburgh on Thursday noon and arrived in Rutland on Saturday by 6 p.m. The return left Rutland on Monday noon and arrived at Lansingburgh on Thursday by 10 a.m.

In July, 1800, the U.S. Post Office sought proposals for a route from Walpole, N.H., to Rutland through Bellows Falls once every two weeks. The route would leave Rutland every other Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrive in Walpole on Friday at 10 a.m. The return would leave Walpole every other Friday

at 2 p.m. and arrive in Rutland on Saturday by 7 p.m. Newspapers were now to be sent in the mails. Any post who wished to carry newspapers other than those conveyed by mail, for his own profit, had to state in his proposals his bid for carrying mail with the private profit on newspapers and his bid without that profit.

There was a high turnover rate among post riders and perhaps for good reason. The routes were long and arduous and getting customers to pay for the varied services provided was often difficult.

For the customer depending on the mail for communication from outside Rutland, patience was necessary. There was no alternative means and no speeding up the process.

Today the postal service handles a large and varied amount of communications and the mailman is an eagerly awaited part of daily life in 20th Century America. For all the contemporary concerns with slow delivery and high costs it is hard to conceive the impact of a return to postal conditions of 200 years ago.

Letters to

ENJOYED ARTICLES

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the "Hypotenuse to History" articles and to commend the young people involved for the respect they have shown to the memory of Vermonters who participated in the American Revolution.

(Mrs.) NORMA L. THOMAS
Fair Haven.



12/15/70

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 34

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 18th Century Rutland the end of the year was the beginning of a season of cold, snow and celebration. However, if the Christmas theme was a part of the season there was no public indication of it. The Christmas motif appears to have had its first public notice in the middle of the 19th Century. Even then the Christmas season seemed to be more a season for children, presents and good will rather than a celebration of the birth of Christ. Instead, the New Year was the focus of celebration.

On December 29, 1794, Rev. Samuel Williams, editor of the Rutland Herald, illustrated local concern with economic conditions. As Williams put it, a continued national debt could answer no other purpose "than to benefit the tribes of speculators, traders, and gamblers in the public funds." Citizens of the country towns were posing many questions about the national debt and taxes.

Of course there were the perennial concerns with the weather. David Stevens, a Rutland



boot and shoe maker, advertised not only boots and shoes but also socks to wear over boots. These socks were such that they allegedly prevented the cold from affecting the feet in the most severe weather. In wet weather they were equally good as water did not penetrate them as it did leather in general.

An 18th Century perspective on Rutland is conspicuous for the absence of references to Christmas. Rather the concerns of note were debt, taxes and cold feet, concerns all too common today. Rutland's religious celebration of Christmas would wait until the middle of the 19th Century and even then it would fall short of the religious ideal.

Bicentennial Perspectives — 35

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The nation's bicentennial celebration is not only a commemoration of the past but also the beginning of a third century of independence and hope. At the beginning of the 19th Century themes of hope and dedication were heard from the poet, the post boy and the prisoner as Rutland celebrated the new year and a new century. Such themes seem especially appropriate to the nation's entry into a third century of independence.

On Jan. 27, 1800, in a poem entitled "January 1st, 1800," the Rutland Herald noted that:

"The annual circlings of the rolling earth, Proclaim today a rising Century's birth. . ." although in fact the new century would technically begin in 1801.

On Jan. 4, 1802, in a poem entitled "The Post Boy's Welcome to the New Year — 1802," the Rutland Herald offered many thoughts and wishes that might be appropriate today:

**"Sol with his golden rays
Proclaims his Maker's praise,
On balmy wings displays
Freedom and peace.
To close the Century past.**

**Let Heaven be prais'd anew,
For Eighteen Hundred — Two,
And lasting honors due
To Jefferson.
Let tyranny be crush'd,
And jarring discord hush'd
From land to sea;
Nor warring nations fight;
But each enjoy their right,
Like brothers all unite
In harmony.
May Commerce now revive,
And Agriculture thrive.
Increase our wealth.
May Manufactures grow,
And Learned Science flow,
And bless this world below
With Peace and Health.
Religion it increase — —
All superstition cease,
Both far and near.**

On January 10, 1803, the Vermont Mercury, the first local competitor of the Rutland Herald, carried a notice of the celebration of the New Year in Rutland on Jan. 1 at a dinner provided at the inn of Mr. Henry Gould, keeper of the jail, for the prisoners of the jail and a number of invited guests. Among the toasts offered were many sympathizing with the lot of the numerous prisoners who were confined for insolvency and praying that they might not lose hope but "rise to honor and share with others in the burdens and blessings of the general government" and "ever be respected citizens. . . It is to be lamented that so many honest, orderly men should be restrained in their liberty." The day was marked by the discharge of cannon by the junior artillery company.

In Rutland the celebration of a new year and a new century was not so much a celebration of the past as an expression of hope in the future. As the bicentennial year of 1976 opens, perhaps there is no more appropriate perspective to be considered than hope in the future by all people.



Bicentennial Perspective — 36

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

New year begins many persons make an attempt of the past year and proceed to make for the new year based on the results of the year. The media review the news of the year and offer prognoses for the future.

In the 19th Century Vermont, a constitutionally independent entity, the Council of Censors provided a periodic review of life in Vermont every year. Further, they recommended changes in the laws and the laws.

The Council of Censors in the convulsed state of the Union made it an attempt to alter the laws of Vermont. They advised that the law requires to support a person an individual had a exemption, should be cause it was opposed conscience.

It is a concern for protection. The Council in many towns and counties assess the standards of

weights and measures required by Vermont law.

Leniency in the enforcement of the law was a problem. The law for the proper observance of the Sabbath had been too often dispensed with by civil officials on trivial pretenses. The laws for the punishment of profane swearing were also little regarded.

In some counties the sheriffs were accused of charging or receiving greater fees than the law allowed. However, the Rutland County sheriffs were found to be completely innocent of these practices.

Today there is no governmental body charged with assessing the morality of our society. How would a Council of Censors assess Vermont society today?



The Small Society

by Brickman



Washington Star Syndicate, Inc.

12-30

BRICKMAN

43-3

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In August, 1793, the Rutland Farmers' Library published a fanciful dream which described Vermont as it would be in June, 1813. In the dream, the anonymous author travelled on Lake Champlain from Montreal to a harbor town which was the capital of the county and the seat of the provincial seminary. This undoubtedly represented Burlington.

From thence the author proceeded on a good carriage road to what appeared to be Middlebury. After a brief respite there he continued on toward the metropolis of Vermont which, without question, represented Rutland. His dream-like description of the prospects of Rutland offer both historic and contemporary food for contemplation.

"Taking leave of my landlord, I proceeded onward, perceiving everywhere that industry and improvement had given an agreeable face to the country. As I drew near the metropolis, the gardens seemed to vie with each other in the convenience and elegance of their design, as well as at the exuberance of the growth and promptitude of their fruit. As I approached nearer I found hundreds of elegant brick houses built on the ground where the lambs were wont to crop their flowery food. Those houses were mostly the homes of the working people, who now in their decent plain dress filled the streets, in their excursions to take the evening air, for it was after sundown.

"I alighted at a spacious hotel, which proved to be the Porter House, where people of every condition met to spend a part of the evening. After letting the landlord know my intention of staying a day or two with him, my curiosity led me to mingle with the people in the great room, who seemed taken up in conversation in small parties over their pots of porter, for that had become the fashionable liquor on account of its being made in the greatest perfection in this city. As I was making my observations on the different companies, a large pockbroken man of a courteous appearance, addressed me saying, 'I perceive, sir, you are a stranger.'

"Yes," replied I, 'although I have been in this place about 20 years ago, things have so altered since that I am quite a stranger here, and know not what to attribute these essential improvements to, both in this city and in all the country I have passed through since I came into this state.'

"The greatest alterations," says he, 'that you perceive, sir, are a share of those, which new countries, when inhabited by people of common industry, frequently meet with. But the greater part is owing to a governmental system which began near 20 years since, and which has been steadily pursued about fifteen years.'

"The people had about that time and for some years before, suffered themselves to be led by a set of men, who on account of their monopolizing as they thought, the knowledge and study of the mysteries of the law, had separated from the rest of the community, (except when they found it necessary, for purposes of delusion, to come down among the people) for America, even after the revolution, had been foolish enough to take for law, what they called precedents, many of which were nothing more than the dark sayings and enigmas of ancient British judges, and maxims so interwoven with vassalage and their feudal system, so contradictory to one another and so ambiguous in their nature, that the glorious uncertainty of the law (as they termed it) provided support for thousands and raised ample fortunes for many, who were by this means taken off from the number of working hands, so eager were the votaries of the fickle goddess of law in those days, and so certain were they of obtaining every important appointment, that the able people educated almost all their sons to that profession, and of those who were not possessed of much property, many by one means or another got into the train.

"Farmers left their plows, mechanics their squares and compasses and their shears, to get hold of the horns of the altar of the God of Litigation. But all at once as it were by inspiration, the people of the continent saw their liberties and properties in danger, and appointed

farmers, merchants and men of business, into both national and state legislatures, who were not found wanting in information, and were adequate to the task of reducing this dangerous fraternity to the level of common citizens.

Their first step was to establish a system of jurisprudence which rendered the judgments of our courts independent of the maxims and reports of Great Britain, or any foreign nation, and rid them of the dishonorable necessity of blindly following precedents, months, and perhaps years after they had been condemned in the courts where they originated.'

"This masterly stroke at once enabled every man who was disposed to read the laws of his own country, which were now by no means voluminous, to speak for himself, and to know before he commenced an action, its fate and progress, and by that means prevented nineteen twentieths of the lawsuits, a demonstration of which is that twenty years ago there were near 400 actions in the docket of the court in this county, and now there are not more than 50, altho there are six times the number of people there were in it then.

"This revolution, for such I esteem it," said my companion, 'has brought idle and litigious people into contempt, and has made industry honorable. No man is now to expect an important appointment until he has, by his diligence and assiduity in business, made his neighbors respect him. He who brings up his family in idleness, is now sure to meet the censures of all his acquaintance. A man in these days must show that he pays attention to his own affairs in order to be a candidate for taking charge of the public's business.'

"But," says my benevolent friend, for such I began to esteem

him, 'the essential cause of such an increase in people and property in this place is not wholly owing to its being the temporary seat of government, or the residence of the Chief Magistrate, for this salary has not amounted to more than 250 pounds a year these 16 years he has enjoyed it. The sessions of the legislature here have been of some service to us, but we can see without regret a removal of those things to the northward, which time and nature points out.'

"The chief glory," says he, 'of this place has derived from the manufactures which have been set up and have flourished here under the protection of the legislature. Not long after the revolution I was speaking of, the people were convinced that the agricultural, the mercantile, and the mechanical interests were but one. The farmer found the wheat, the beef, pork and many other articles, the produce of his hands, were too burdensome to transport to fickle markets on the Hudson and its canals. He found that the surest way to get stable markets for his surplus produce was to have manufactures enough near home to consume it.

"The merchant fell in with the idea, as while he exported wheat, beef, pork, pot and pearlash, only, the balance of trade was likely to operate against him, as few countries produce the most necessary articles of life in such abundance as to purchase every convenience. Those ideas became prevalent, and manufactures flourished. This city had the good luck to have several public manufacturing companies successively set up and organized in it, to whose flourishing it is in great measure indebted for its present importance.'

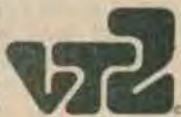
It was only a dream that an anonymous writer in 1793 saw for Rutland in the future. But much of that dream came true, although it may have taken more than 20 years. The great bicentennial legacy of Americans is their ability to dream dreams that they make come true.

43-3

Bicentennial Perspective — 37

By JAMES DAVIDSON

On October 11, 1800, Governor Isaac Tichenor addressed the Governor's Council and the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont in general assembly. The 18th Century conditions mentioned in the speech and the 20th Century conditions of today provide both parallels and contrasts that contribute to a bicentennial perspective:



"The affairs of government will always be attended with difficulty, and will require much application, prudence and firmness, in those on whom is devolved the arduous task of conducting its interests. It is in confidence that I shall be favored with your cordial assistance and support, that I enter upon the office and duties which the Constitution has assigned to the chief magistrate of the state. Collected from the different parts of the commonwealth, you must be intimately acquainted with the various situations and circumstances of your constituents, and with such information it will be in your power to pursue the public welfare with candor and success, in all the consultations and measures of the present session.

"The Auditor will lay before you a general statement of the accounts of the Treasury Department. A review of the accounts of that department for several years past, when contrasted with those of former years, will show an increase of wealth in our state, and a degree of economy in the management of our finances, that must be pleasing to our fellow citizens...

"The Constitution and laws of our country have made it a duty of the Legislature at this session to choose Electors of President and Vice President of the United States. This consideration gives a peculiar importance to the business of this session. Those men who are to be immediately instrumental in the appointment of persons who are to fill the highest offices our country can bestow, ought to be selected from the most worthy of our Fellow Citizens. It is sincerely to be hoped that the importance of the crisis may induce such Electors, when chosen, to unite their suffrages on men who are attached to the interests of their country and who are the friends of order and good government. Should the chief magistrate of the Union be destitute of the virtues of a real Patriot; should a predilection for foreign principles, or an ardor for untried theories, influence him to depart from the sober maxims of our ancestors, and from those principles of national interest which WASHINGTON recommended in his last legacy to the people, and which ADAMS has so happily pursued in his executive administration of the general government; in a word, should our first magistrate be other than an independent American, the most injurious consequences to us and our posterity, are justly to be apprehended.

"But while we observe with pleasure the improved state of our Agriculture, it is of importance that we bear in mind that Agriculture in all its interests is most intimately connected with those of Commerce and Manufactures, and cannot be carried on to any considerable extent, but in connection with them. If the Farmer finds no demand for the produce of his land, a great part of it becomes useless; thus the various interests of every state in the Union become mutually dependent and connected; and that which is a benefit to the one, is an advantage to the whole.

"All our interests, whether public or private, are so inseparably connected with the principles that regulate the conduct of mankind, the principles of morality and religion, that there cannot be any permanent prosperity in the one without a steady cultivation of the other; what can restrain the passions of men, regulate their views and pursuits, confine them to the bounds of reason, duty and integrity, produce industry, economy and regularity, or a steady obedience to the laws of our country, but substantial and permanent principles of action? And can these be expected, or will they be found in any other principles but those of morality and religion?

"If anything can be wanting to convince us of the importance of moral and christian principles, the fatal and horrid consequences that have arisen in modern times from treating them with neglect and contempt, must carry conviction to the mind of every person who has heard or read of the Revolution in Europe. In every attempt therefore, to promote the interests of science, the education of youth or to render respectable the institutions and precepts of Christianity, we shall be in the discharge of a duty highly useful in a Christian country, and every way interesting to a free people."

V/13/76

43-3

Bicentennial Perspective — 38

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Rutland, as most communities of any size, boasts numerous drugstores which provide both prescription and patent medicines. Although the number of drugstores in 18th Century Rutland, and probably the frequency of their use, was less than today, still the druggist had an important role to play.

In June, 1793, Ashur Shepard announced in a newspaper advertisement that he had moved his drugstore from Bennington to Rutland. By October of the same year Pomeroy and Hooker also offered drugs and medicines for sale. Competition seemed intense as Lansingburgh, N.Y., and Bennington druggists advertised in the Rutland newspapers. By January, 1794, Pomeroy and Hooker had opened another store in Middlebury under the care of Dr. Darius Matthews.

Pomeroy and Hooker offered a large and general assortment of drugs, medicines and medical implements, which they sold at both wholesale and retail. Among the items offered were: aloes, antimony, arsenic, aqua fortis, borax, bergamot, cinnamon, cloves, camphor, isinglass, litharge of gold, oil of lavender, oil of almonds, oil of olives, oil of vitriol, Carolina pink root, spermaceti, spirits of turpentine and blue and white vitriol. Among the patent medicines offered were: Anderson and Hooper's Pills, Betton's British Oil, Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial and Turlington's Balsam of Life. Implements offered were: bell metal mortars, crown and country lancets, grain scales and weights, ivory and pewter syringes and teeth instruments.

Most drugs were imported from London via New York however there were exceptions to this rule. Medicinal salts of a fine quality were offered for sale by the proprietors of Orwell Springs. These purging salts were exhibited to the District Medical Society in July, 1797, by Stephen Williams of Rutland. The Society noted that the

salts were equal to, if not superior to, imported salts as they were milder and less nauseating. A number of doctors in the county used them. They were offered for sale by the hundred pounds or the single pound at Pomeroy and Hooker's, at Issachar Reed's store and inn and at the Springs in Orwell. They were recommended as an excellent substitute for Glauber or Epsom salts.

In January, 1799, a sample of magnesia alba from Orwell Springs was exhibited to the First Medical Society by Dr. Ashur Shepard who manufactured it. The Society unanimously approved the product and published a public announcement that it was equal to the imported magnesia in its effects.

Among the patent medicines sold by Pomeroy and Hooker was Dr. Lee's True Bilious Pills which had a patent from the United States Government. They were used to counteract an overcharge of bile in the stomach. Their effects were extensive. They removed pains in the head, stomach and bowels, gripes and all obstructions. They were an excellent help for the gravel, scurvy, cholic, jaundice, dropsy and constipation. They were also recommended for those who followed the sea as they prevented many diseases which often afflicted seamen. A dose consisted of from one to four pills taken at night on going to bed.

Americans of the 18th Century were not destitute of medicines but great progress has been made in two centuries. Perhaps 20th Century Americans take the availability and efficaciousness of their medicines too much for granted.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 39

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

There is much dispute on the effectiveness of jails. Some citizens complain that jails are too lenient in their operation and do not contain the prisoner. Others comment on the inhumanity of the current system of incarceration and its failure to rehabilitate the prisoner. Perhaps both parties can gain some perspective on this topic by a brief look at the operation of the Rutland County jail nearly 200 years ago.

In 18th Century Rutland prisoners found that there were numerous ways to avoid confinement. One of the most direct means was to escape as four men did on the evening of Sept. 18, 1793. On Sept. 23, Sheriff Jonathan Bell advertised a reward of \$40.00 for the return of the escapees or \$10.00 for one plus all necessary expenses. The escapees were identified as:

(1) Timothy Smith, Candia, N.H. — He was six feet tall, well-built with short curled brown hair. He wore a scarlet coat and vest and a brown surtout. His ears were cropped and he was branded in August for horse stealing. He was a shoemaker by occupation.

(2) Horace Palmer, Litchfield, Conn. — He was about five feet and nine inches tall and of slim build. He had a freckled face and short curled red hair. He wore a striped elastic coat and a black satin vest with jean overalls. He was under sentence of the court for horse stealing. He was a silversmith by occupation.

(3) Nicholas Smith, Danbury, Conn. — He was about five feet and eight inches tall with long black hair. He wore a blue coat and black breeches. He was under sentence of the court for horse stealing. He was a shoemaker by occupation.

(4) Elijah Lawrence, Hinesburg, Vt. — He was confined on a mensa process for debt.

There were other means to avoid confinement in the county jail. Samuel Beach obtained a one year suspension of sentence by an act of the state Legislature on October 28, 1794. He was ordered released from confinement and all claims against him were suspended for one year.

He was required to provide sufficient surety for his return to Jonathan Bell, Sheriff of Rutland County.

Some prisoners obtained the liberty of the jailyard in Rutland. In 1798 the jailyard included an area 600 feet on each side of what is now Main Street. It ran about a half mile from what is now Christ the King church to what is now the Aldous Funeral Home. This was the commercial district of the town.

One of those who received the liberty of the jailyard was Augustine Hibbard who was jailed in October, 1793. However, Hibbard absconded and left his surety, Nathan Osgood, liable. In October, 1795, Osgood was able to get an act of Legislature to stay the Supreme Court proceedings against him so that he could secure property left in the state by Hibbard.

Not all prisoners knew their rights nor was such information easily available. On March 20, 1797, the Rutland Herald reported that a poor man, in jail in Rutland for debt, applied to the proper officer for information on the law passed at the last session of the Legislature pertaining to his case. The officer replied that the old law had been repealed and a new one passed but he had no copy and did not know where to get one except from the secretary of the state at the expense of the poor man. The editor of the Rutland Herald criticized this situation in which acts of the Legislature were not properly publicized.

The problems of prisoner and jailor in 18th Century Rutland seem to have a very familiar ring. Perhaps the dress was different but the problems are very similar to those of the 20th Century.



Bicentennial Perspective — 40

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Rutland in the 18th Century had tangible evidence of superstition. How extensively or how intensively the population was affected by it is largely conjecture.

Tradition states that a man by the name of Alesworth lived on the interval owned by Israel Harris in the 18th Century and Isaac Mathewson in the 19th Century. He was a poor, elderly man who had a reputation for knowledge of mystic sciences and found it possible to support himself and his wife by making almanacs and conjuring.

In January, 1796, a report circulated in Rutland that the illegitimate child of Miss Abi Hobbs, daughter of Jacob Hobbs, was not only deformed but had features of a most brutal kind.

Doctors Ezekiel Porter and Daniel Reed took occasion to report in the newspaper that the rumor was false and cruelly injurious. Dr. Porter was present at the delivery which

was a premature birth and thus the features of the child were not altogether perfect. The feet inclined inward. The scalp on the back of the head was missing and the skin was off to the middle of the back. But both doctors noted that there was not the least trace of anything but the human kind.

With the limited powers that 18th Century man had over nature, it is easy to understand how many things mystified him, things that he ascribed to God or other supernatural powers. And for all his advances, 20th Century man still remains mystified by the evidence of many unexplained events.



George Washington

1732 - 1799

Bicentennial Perspective — 41

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As preparations are made for local, state and national elections, both voters and candidates focus their attention on the criteria for choosing an officeholder. On Aug. 26, 1793, the Rutland Farmers' Library printed an unusual book dedication which offers an 18th Century ideal, which though seldom attained in any century, still seems worthy of consideration today.

To the man (whenever he may appear):

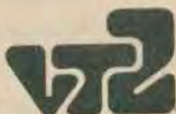
— who, blessed with a soul superior to all lucrative and ambitious views; will dare to stand forth, the generous advocate and benevolent protector of the public welfare.

— who, when in office, will make the happiness of his fellow citizens, his sole object; and who, when out of office, independently of every partial consideration, will steadily and uniformly adhere to the same honest plan.

— who, while in power, will boldly oppose all measures however profitable to himself or his friends, that may be detrimental to the cause of his country.

— and who, when deprived of power, unshaken by present disappointments, or influenced by future expectations, will as boldly support every measure, which may be beneficial to that cause, though it originates from his most hated adversary.

Such a man may be justly honored with the glorious title (hitherto alas, ideal) which in all ages has been frequently conferred, but perhaps never yet merited, of a PATRIOT.



Bicentennial Perspective — 42

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

This week Americans commemorate George Washington, commander-in-chief of the American Revolutionary army and the first President of the United States. For nearly two centuries Washington has had an exceptional place of honor in the minds and hearts of American citizens from all walks of life.

Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, was an occasion for celebration in Rutland as early as 1798. A number of citizens commemorated the joyful anniversary by a public dinner followed by numerous toasts which were duly proclaimed by the cannon of Captain Samuel Walker's artillery company.

However the nature and extent of the honors conveyed to the memory of Washington were best exemplified in Rutland on the occasion of his death. Washington died at Mount Vernon, Va., on Dec. 14, 1799. The Rutland Herald reported the tragic event in a large one column obituary notice on Jan. 6, 1800. The same issue contained a report of the public mourning in Rutland.

On Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1800, the inhabitants of the village and the vicinity assembled at Major William Lee's tavern at 1 p.m. and proceeded to the meetinghouse. The procession included military officers, the colors of mourning, music, United States troops, the Rutland Company of Artillery, the Rutland Company of Cavalry, the Rutland Company of Light Infantry, the Masonic Society, civil officers, the clergy and citizens in general. At the meetinghouse the Reverend Heman Ball performed devotional exercises suitable to the occasion

and preached from Acts XIII:36 "For David after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption." The exercises closed with a funeral dirge composed by Thomas G. Fessenden of Rutland and performed by Thomas Atwell, also of Rutland, and a group of scholars under his direction.

The editor of the Rutland Herald commented that he did not remember "ever to have seen so general an appearance of real and unaffected sorrow, as on this melancholy occasion.... If ever any man after he was laid in the grave, lived in the memory of an affectionate sorrowful people, that man was George Washington."

On January 13, 1800, the Rutland Herald gave the funeral of Washington page one coverage. President John Adams recommended that citizens wear crepe on the left arm for 30 days in mourning for George Washington. The Congress resolved that Feb. 22, 1800, be a day for public assemblage for the people of the United States to express their grief at the death of Washington.

Thus the people of Rutland honored the memory of George Washington nearly 200 years ago.



Bicentennial Perspective — 43

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 18th Century America the tavern or public inn was the center of much of the political, social and economic life in a community. In Rutland there were numerous taverns or inns. Three of these were located at the Federal Square (now the intersection of West Street and Main Street). On July 15, 1794, the

Farmers' Library notified the public that the following houses of entertainment were open at the Federal Square in Rutland: the Tontine Coffee House, at the sign of the Bull's Head, kept by Major Buell; the City Tavern, at the sign of the Golden Ball, kept by Captain Lester; and the Rutland Hotel, at the sign of the Federal Eagle, kept by Mr. Munn. The advertisement was undoubtedly unauthorized for the following week a letter from Major Elais Buell requested that the editor inform the public that the ridiculous, pompous advertisement of public inns in Rutland, in which his name was mentioned, was done by someone without his direction or consent.

Taverns served the community as a common meeting place for political, social and business concerns. Dancing and singing teachers used these accommodations for their weekly classes. Rutland businessmen often advertised the location of their businesses in reference to the location of the nearest tavern.

Although taverns served alcoholic beverages and drunkenness was not unknown, the County Court controlled the situation through the granting of tavern licenses. A license in 1799 cost from \$1.50 to \$10, depending on the amount of business at the inn or tavern. In 1794 a federal license to retail wines and foreign distilled spirits was required for take-out purchases but

did not apply to taverns where the drink was consumed on the premises.

Not all alcohol was procured at the tavern. Rutland had a distillery that was operated in 1795 by Joseph Atlee. Wheat, barley, rye and oats were taken to malt in the late fall and the malt was delivered a month or two later. In 1797 Samuel Atlee was operating the distillery in Rutland; however he died in September. In 1799 Russell Rogers proposed to set up a malting business in Rutland. Any grain except Indian corn would be malted and a good quality malt prepared. Of course many a farmer had his own still. On Jan. 20, 1800, an advertisement in the Rutland Herald offered a good still for "ready cash only."

As the 19th Century began in 1801, a Vermont law closed taverns and inns for amusement or recreation purposes from sunset Saturday to midnight Sunday. In addition no dances, sports or plays were to be held in a town under penalty of a fine of no more than \$2, payable to the town.

The tavern or inn in the 18th Century was a multipurpose institution in the town or village. But as the 19th Century arrived, the role of the tavern or inn began to be more limited, though not less important. Today taverns and inns have quite distinct and different roles in the society, though still far from unimportant.



Bicentennial Perspective — 44

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

March is the time for annual Town Meeting in Vermont. Thus it was in 18th Century Rutland, although town meetings were often called throughout the year as need occasioned.

Rutland was one of the largest towns in 18th Century Vermont. It had a population of up to 2100

people. Geographically it covered an area which is now occupied by Rutland Town, Rutland City, West Rutland, and a part of Proctor. Politically it was governed by selectmen and the town meeting system.

Rutland town meetings date back to the American Revolution. However, the concerns of the town were quite different from those that occupy the members of the community today.

Some of the earliest decision-making that took place in town meeting involved the laying out of roads and the building of bridges. Town pounds, in which stray livestock were to be confined, were established on each side of the town. At various times swine, sheep, mules and horses were prohibited from roaming freely by town vote.

During the American Revolution, the town voted to raise men for the militia and even voted pay for scouting parties. Provisions for Vermont troops were often voted.

As the Revolution neared an end, the town became interested in a number of new domestic issues. Rutland had had a minister since 1773 but by 1781 the town or the preacher or both were dissatisfied with the situation. The town voted frequently to seek a preacher for the town. The preacher was paid by the town. Building and keeping the

meetinghouse in good repair were also ventures supported by town taxes. The town also built a jail and repaired the courthouse.

Many disputes in the town came to the town meeting for a solution. Often the solution was not forthcoming. On occasion the citizens of the town petitioned the General Assembly for assistance in solving their problems.

School districts were laid out by committees and approved at town meeting. Once the school district was established it was left to the district committee to supervise activities in the district. Frequently school district lines were changed for the personal convenience of individual members of the district.

The town gave aid to the ill and the aged. For the dead the town purchased and maintained a pall cloth for use at funerals. To provide for honesty, the town purchased and kept a set of weights and measures.

Town funds were voted for the encouragement of singing. Hunters also received town encouragement. A reward of one pound and ten shillings, and later three pounds, was offered for each wolf killed.

Though the town meeting has disappeared from many larger communities in Vermont, its spirit seems to linger in the hearts of its citizens, truly a bicentennial heritage.



Bicentennial Perspective — 45

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The year 1976 is an election year at federal, state and local levels, as well as the bicentennial year. The 18th Century commentaries by the Rev. Samuel Williams, editor of the Rutland Herald, provide not only a bicentennial perspective on elections but some practical advice for voters.

At the election for the House of Representatives, Williams emphasized the important privilege and duty that citizens had in exercising their vote. He pointed out that freemen ought to vote from the purest motives. They should "prepare their votes upon previous reflection," which votes should "be given for the man whom they seriously believe is the best qualified and disposed to promote the public good."

On the occasion of the election for members of the state Legislature, Williams noted the importance of electing "men of the highest integrity and political honesty. Such men are to be found in all our towns; and people among whom they reside are the best judge who they are."

In the spring of 1796 many Americans differed in their opinions on the issue of support for the French Revolution. Williams noted that there was in every quarter "an uncommon agitation of the public mind." In several papers there were strong indications that it would "soon be necessary to dissolve the Federal Union, and not

be embarrassed any longer with the debts and Negroes of the southern states." Calm and prudent councils were encouraged by Williams. Voters must "look out for calm, prudent and judicious men for federal representatives." A few more hot, rash and party men in Congress would most probably destroy the Federal Union.

Perhaps Williams' final admonition should be considered today. "American citizens, look out at your next election for men who never have sided with the rashness of parties, and who will have the spirit of wisdom and conciliation to correct the mischiefs which they have done, to avert the evils of war, and to preserve the union of your country."

But for all his idealism, even Williams realized in November, 1798, that times had changed. He noted that the election for House of Representatives had become a matter of the highest importance for it was "not a dispute in favor of any particular individual" but it concerned "the existence and support of our Constitution and government." It was an election to decide whether the American or French interests would prevail. On this issue Williams took a position with the comment, "Is it to be supposed that any friend to his country will hesitate about giving his vote in favor of one of the federal candidates?"

Bicentennial Perspective — 46

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As the weather begins to fluctuate between winter and the promise of spring, a season known as "sugaring time" arrives in Vermont. Although life, even in Vermont, is no longer dominated by agricultural seasons as it once was, "sugaring time" still evokes a sense of seasonal change, whether in the mind of the most aged legislator or in the heart of the youngest schoolboy.

In the 18th Century, the "Farmer's Callender" for March, 1799, encouraged its readers to "attend to making maple sugar." Records of the actual amounts of sugar made in Rutland in the 18th Century do not exist but if 19th Century Rutland statistics bear any relationship to 18th Century sugarmaking, a sizeable amount of sugar was made.

In 19th Century Rutland, the federal census reports on agricultural production in 1850 showed that nearly 50,000 pounds of

maple sugar was made in the old Town of Rutland (which included the present towns of Rutland, West Rutland, part of Proctor and the City of Rutland). In 1880 production was nearly 60,000 pounds.

Ten to 15 individuals in Rutland each made 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of maple sugar during the four or five week sugaring season. This was equivalent to 125 to 250 gallons of maple syrup. Many other farmers produced a few hundred pounds of sugar.

Today maple sugarmaking is still with us but it is only a reminiscence of its glorious past.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 47

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Over two hundred years ago Vermont was the scene of a fierce controversy between settlers who held New Hampshire titles to their lands and New York land speculators who tried to enforce their claims. In the following poem, entitled "To Rutland Go," Thomas Rowley, an early Rutland surveyor, expressed a rare sense of beauty and potential as he extolled Rutland's virtues. From a 20th Century perspective, the lofty qualities of the poem both surprise and embarrass a generation of pessimists.



I.
Come all you labouring hands
That toil below,
Among the rocks and sands;
That plow and sow,
Upon your hired lands
Let out by cruel hands;
'Twill make you large amends,
To Rutland go.

II.
Your pateroons forsake,
Whose greatest care,
Is slaves of you to make,
While you live there:
Come, quit their barren lands,
And leave them in their hands,
To Rutland go.

III.
For who would be a slave,
That may be free:
Here you good land may have,
But come and see.
The soil is deep and good,
Here in this pleasant wood;
Where you may raise your food,
And happy be.

IV.
West of the Mountain Green
Lies Rutland fair;
The best that e'er was seen
For soil and air:
Kind zephyr's pleasant breeze,
Whispers among the trees,
Where men may live at ease,
With prudent care.

V.
Here cows give milk to eat,
By nature fed:
Our fields afford good wheat,
And corn for bread.
Here sugar trees they stand,
Which sweetens all our land,
We have them at our hand,
Be not afraid.

VI.
Here's roots of every kind,
To preserve our lives;
The best of anodynes,
And rich costives.
The balsam of the tree,
Supplies our chirurgery:
No safer can you be
In any land.

VII.
Here stands the lofty pine,
And makes a show;
As straight as gunter's line
Their bodies grow.
Their lofty heads they rear,
Amid the atmosphere,
Where the wing'd tribes repair,
And sweetly sing.

VIII.
The butternut and beach,
And the elm tree,
They strive their heads to reach
As high as they:
But falling much below,
They make an even show:
The pines more lofty grow,
And crown the woods.

IX.
Here glides a pleasant stream,
Which doth not fail,
To spread the richest cream
O'er the interval:
As rich as Eden's soil,
Before that sin did spoil,
Or man was doom'd to toil,
To get his bread.

X.
Here little salmon glide,
So neat and fine,
Where you may be supply'd
With hook and line:
They are the finest fish,
To cook a dainty dish,
As good as one could wish
To feed upon.

XI.
The pigeon, goose, and duck
They fill our beds;
The beaver, coon, and fox,
They crown our heads.
The harmless moose and deer,
Are food and clothes to wear;
Nature could do no more
For any land.

XII.
There's many a pleasant town
Lies in this vale,
Where you may settle down;
You need not fail
To make a fine estate,
If you are not too late,
You need not fear the fate,
But come along.

XIII.
We value not New-York,
With all their powers;
For here we'll stay and work,
The land is ours.
And as for great Duane,
With all his wicked train,
They may eject again.
We'll not resign.

XIV.
This is that noble land,
By conquest won:
Took from a savage band,
With sword and gun.
We drove them to the west,
They could not stand the test
And from the Gallic pest,
This land is free.

XV.
Here churches we'll erect
Both neat and fine;
The gospel we'll protect,
Pure and divine.
The pope's supremacy
We utterly deny,
And Lewis we defy;
We're George's men.

XVI.
In George we will rejoice,
He is our king;
We will obey his voice
In everything.
Here we his servants stand,
Upon his conquer'd land,
Good Lord may he defend
Our property.

Bicentennial Perspective — 48

JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As Spring arrives and the snow disappears, a change in footwear takes place. For many people, that change consists of purchasing something new for the season as well as putting away the footwear of winter.

In 18th Century Rutland the purchase of shoes and boots was a quite different experience. The consumer did not enter numerous shops and try on countless

pairs of shoes. There were different shoemakers but most of their boots and shoes were made to order. A pair of these shoes cost between six and nine shillings, with the average price nearer six shillings.

Among the Rutland shoemakers of the 18th Century were Moses Hawks, Ebenezer Mussey, David Stevens, Daniel Graves, Isaac Gage, Francis Goodrich, and Ephraim Blanchard. Frequently they sought assistance as they advertised in the newspaper for journeymen shoemakers and apprentices.

The shoemaking business was often connected with other economic activities. David Stevens, Daniel Graves and Ephraim Blanchard carried on the tanning

business. Stevens also carried on the butchering business.

The tanning business provided a market for hides in Rutland and also a market for oak, birch and hemlock bark which were used for tanning. Tanning hides took time as was illustrated by one tanner who advertised that hides received by the first of February would be ready by the first of September.

There have been numerous advances in shoe and bootmaking in the last two centuries of life in America. Time and relative price have been reduced. But as the observer considers the demise of the individual craftsman, a question arises. For all the gain, was not something also lost?



Bicentennial Perspective — 49

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Spring has arrived and farmers throughout the countryside are turning their thoughts to their annual planting. Thus it has been for over two hundred years in Vermont, although much else has changed. The April, 1799, "Farmer's Callender" solicitously admonished farmers to examine their "seeds of all kinds and get them in readiness."

The majority of Rutland's citizens in the 18th Century were farmers, as were the majority in every state in the Union. But even those who were not farmers, had their gardens.

Post rider Eleazer Wheelock and the U. S. Representative to the House of Representatives from Vermont, Israel Smith, both had garden plans in April of 1796. James and Anthony Butler's account book of 1796 showed that Wheelock purchased three-quarters of a pound of indigo seed, one-quarter of a pound of parsnip seed, one-quarter of a pound of lettuce seed, one pound of beet seed and one pound of cucumber seed. Representative Smith seemed to have planned a smaller garden which included beets, parsnips, carrots and onions.

Seed prices varied from one pound and sixteen shillings for a pound of lettuce seed to four shillings and six pence for a pound of cucumber seed. Parsnip, beet, carrot and onion seed cost seven shillings per pound.

Home gardens were an important source of food in 18th Century Rutland. Since much of the food was consumed fresh, rather than

preserved, numerous staggered plantings were necessitated.

Planting schedules called for planting wheat and rye, early peas, potatoes, hemp and flax, if the ground was not too wet, turnips, radishes, beets, carrots and cabbages in April. In May the Rutland farmer planted potatoes again, early beans, Indian corn on high warm lands, melons, cucumbers, squash and pumpkins. In June he planted Indian corn, potatoes and beans for the last time. He also sowed more radishes and peas, set tobacco and cabbage plants, and planted cucumbers for pickling. In July he sowed peas for the fall. In August wheat and rye were sowed again. During July and August it was important to gather seeds for the next season as they became ripe.

Today there are numerous advocates who encourage a return to the home garden, both for the direct benefits of food and the indirect benefits of good, outdoor exercise. Many speak in terms of "self-sufficiency." The 18th Century pattern seems so simple and clear until the planter reaches for his seeds in their multi-colored packages. Suddenly it's the 20th Century.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 50

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 18th Century America the arrival of a resident clockmaker or gold and silversmith signified the coming of age of a community. A successful clockmaker or goldsmith needed a community with a population large enough and an economy wealthy enough to support his business. His presence indicated that a community had achieved this status or was well on its way to doing so. However, a successful business often required that the craftsman offer diversified skills.

In 1792 William Storer had a gold and silversmith's business next door south of the new jail in Rutland. In 1793 he informed the public in general, and merchants in particular, that he was also making and selling white metal coat and vest buttons of various patterns and of the finest American quality. He noted that old gold, silver, copper, brass and pewter would be received in payment for buttons. In the summer of 1794, as war fever led to the mobilization of portions of the Vermont militia, Storer advertised that he could speedily supply officers with spontoons (half pikes which were borne by inferior officers of infantry).

In 1797 Benjamin Bridge advertised that he had set up the business of clockmaking near the meetinghouse in the West Parish. He also repaired watches and performed all manner of

goldsmithing. In the same year Benjamin Lord and Nicholas Goddard opened a watch and clockmaking business opposite Pomeroy and Hooker's store, a few rods north of the courthouse. They advertised musical clocks which played seven tunes, shifting automatically to a different tune for each day of the week, including a psalm tune on Sunday. The clocks also showed the phase of the moon, day of the month, as well as hours, minutes and seconds. They also sold alarm clocks whose alarm could be set at any given hour. They offered eight day clocks and thirty hour clocks. In addition to their clockmaking and repair, they also did a variety of gold and silversmith work.

The local craftsman and his product contributed a special character to the community in which he lived and worked. Today, with a very rare exception, this character is all gone except in the nostalgia of the antique. What craftsman made the last clock you bought?



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 51

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The expense and availability of paper supplies concerned 18th Century printers and publishers as much as their 20th Century counterparts. The first Rutland newspaper, the Herald of Vermont, observed the great expense of procuring paper supplies from a great distance. Rags were a particularly important ingredient in papermaking and their scarcity led the newspaper to offer cash for rags delivered at the printing office.

In 1793 James Lyon began the Farmers' Library in Rutland. In February, 1794, he announced that he was entering upon the erection of a paper manufactory in Fair Haven, Vermont. In April, 1794, the mill was erected. By mid-summer the mill was in operation and the Farmers' Library, Aug. 26, 1794, was published on paper from the new paper mill. By early fall, writing paper was also being produced. Wrapping paper was not made as the quality of rags in the area was generally too fine and soft for that purpose, although it had been Lyon's original intention to produce wrapping paper as well as press and writing paper.

The paper mill had a great need for rags. Lyon offered 16 shillings and 8 pence for rags delivered at stores and a bonus of 18 shillings and 4 pence for rags delivered at the Mill in Fair Haven. He noted that three-fourths of a pound of rags from every soul in the county annually would supply the mill. In contrast to the skeptics, he was certain that this amount could be obtained. If merchants would help gather rags, Lyon promised to provide them paper as cheap as in New York.

In addition to rags, Lyon requested tanners and butchers to save cattle feet and calves pates for use in papermaking. He offered to pay one shilling for a dozen calves pates and two pence a piece for cattle feet.

In late October, 1794, Colonel Lyon, James Lyon's father and a

political notable of the area, developed a process for manufacturing printing paper from the bark of the basswood tree. The bark was matched by an equal proportion of common course rags. This bark was not only abundantly available but cost not more than one-third as much as rags.

The Farmers' Library, October 28, 1794, was printed on this new paper which the editor helped to produce because of a lack of journeymen papermakers at his mill. The editor observed that the bark from which it was made was not properly cured and fitted for the business. It had never been sized except with alum and water. Given these disadvantages, it still made tolerable printing paper. Lyon was convinced that this bark, when rightly cured and properly manufactured without the assistance of rags, would make paper which would be of a quality suitable for books, wall paper etc. If the discovery proved to be useful to mankind, Lyon offered to make all rights to the process freely available to the public without a patent right.

Today a world that is rapidly burying itself in paper, is urgently seeking a solution to the twin problems of the shortage of paper and its increased cost. How easy it is to take the availability of cheap paper for granted. The cooperation of the public in salvaging the ingredients for making paper is a need the 18th and 20th Centuries have in common.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 52

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Recent news stories have made the citizens of Vermont, and Rutland in particular, aware that the matter read by children and adults may be a subject for public concern. The issues of school texts and local pornography offerings have become topics of conversation and news.

The debate over the public's literature raises an old academic question regarding who reads what is offered for sale. In the 18th Century, the Rutland Herald carried extensive lists of books for sale at the printing office and some stores included lists of books in their advertisements. The question of who purchased which of the numerous books for sale is partially answered in "A Daybook From the Office of The Rutland Herald Kept by Samuel Williams, 1798 - 1802," which has been edited by Marcus McCorison of the American Antiquarian Society. In this account book Williams notes who bought what from his printing office.

During a four-year period, the printing office sold 34 different books which comprised a total of over 150 copies. Except for purchasers of multiple copies, who were obviously dealers, three persons were Williams's leading customers. Thomas Hale bought nine books, David Stevens bought seven and Ethiel Cushman bought five.

The most popular books sold were George Keate's "An Account of the Pelew Islands," Stephanie F. D. de Saint-Aubin de Genlis' "Alphonso and Dalinda," a book on the Chickamogga (sic) Indians, spelling books, and Alonso DeCalves' "Travels to the Westward." Five different pamphlets were sold

during the period the daybook was kept. Nathan Osgood's "An Oration, delivered at Rutland, on the anniversary of American independence, July 4th, 1799" led in sales with over 140 copies sold.

Numerous religious works were purchased but only one or two copies of each title. One religious pamphlet which sold a large number of copies was "The Writings of a Pretended Prophet, (in six letters) who assumed the title of Faithful Servent of Jesus Christ, officially commissioned by Almighty God, to demand and receive of Abraham Morhouse, Esqr., two thousand pounds." Sixty copies of this work were purchased by two men.

There were no works advertised or recorded as sold that could be remotely called pornographic or obscene literature. If such literature was sold in Rutland there was no record of it. School texts appeared to be far from controversial as they consisted mainly of the three "R's."

But beyond what was printed and what was sold, there are still the critical questions of who read it and what effect it had, questions that are in the forefront of the 20th Century concern with literature in Rutland.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 53

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Rutland's downtown commercial community is in the process of change. Old stores depart and new stores enter. In the 18th Century there was also a rather rapid turnover in the ownership and operation of stores, most of which could be described as "country stores."

Oral evidence obtained by Chauncy K. Williams in 1853 indicated that a Mr. Metcalfe may have had a store in Rutland as early as 1779. Another 19th Century witness said that John Prentiss had a store sometime before 1790. There is written evidence that Nathan Osgood had a store in Rutland in September, 1785, and this may well have been Rutland's first store.

By 1794, when the Rutland Herald began publishing, Rutland stores included John Prentiss and Company, William H. P. Graham, James and Anthony Butler, Silas Pepoon and Company, and Ralston and Wells, all of whom had establishments in the East Parish. In addition, Pomeroy and Hooker had a drug store in the East Parish.

Issachar Reed had a small store in the East Parish which he later relocated to the West Parish. Four or five other persons operated stores in Rutland for short periods of time but they soon went out of business. It is difficult to determine why they failed or departed their location or enterprise. Some moved to new opportunities in other communities and states. Some changed their occupation. Some simply failed.

Ownerships varied from the simple single ownership to partnerships with out-of-state interests. Many partnerships dissolved and were replaced by a single owner. Others entered new partnership arrangements.

One of the oldest merchants, John Prentiss, had formed a company with his brothers, Cephas and Peter. In the summer of 1795, New York City merchants successfully sued and won judgment against John Prentiss and Company. Cephas and Peter had departed to "parts unknown" only to appear later in South Carolina where both met unfortunate deaths at an early age. John was left to face the burden of debt.

Not all partnerships were as disastrous. James and Anthony Butler established a hatting business in Rutland and later

opened a store as J. and A. Butler. In 1796 the partnership was dissolved. James Butler took over the store and continued as a successful Rutland merchant until his death in 1842.

Sometime before January, 1796, Royal Crafts and Edmund Ingalls entered a partnership in a store in Rutland. By March 20, 1797, they had dissolved the partnership, called for immediate payment of debts, and prepared to leave the area. In February, 1797, they had advertised that the slow pay of their customers was enough to ruin anyone. Apparently it killed their business in Rutland. In June, 1797, another partnership, composed of Silas Pepoon, Silas Whitney, Ozias Fuller and John Gove, dissolved. All demands in favor of the firm and all goods on hand were assigned to Silas Pepoon of Stockbridge, Mass.

Jonathan Wells entered Rutland business in partnership with a Mr. Ralston. In January, 1794, he embarked on single ownership but in May, 1801, he took a new partner, Reuben Washburn. In the West Parish, Peter French and J. Collins opened a store near the meetinghouse in 1799.

Ralph Paige was a clothier who opened a store in 1796 about a mile west of the courthouse in Rutland. Two years later he quit the mercantile business and re-established a clothing works in his store.

Merchandising always entails the twin prospects of success and failure and the causes for each are numerous. This element of risk the centuries share. However, merchandising establishments of the 20th Century are more complex in their ownership structure and in their operations. Commercial change was a fact of 18th Century life much as it is today. Yet the general complexity of today's economic community makes the impact of change more than it was in 18th Century Rutland.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 54

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

A segment of today's society gives a certain glorification to the "swinger," especially the bachelor who chooses to avoid the web of matrimony and its attendant obligations. Surprisingly, early 19th Century Rutland had a number of voluntary, or so they claimed, bachelors.

The "Old Bachelors" of Rutland were quite active.

In 1801 they held a ball. On Jan. 23, 1802, they held a meeting at Coffin's Hotel in Rutland for the purpose of taking into consideration that part of the President's Message which related to the propagation of the species. The advertisement for the meeting and the bill for the tickets for the ball were both accounted for by John Cook, a Rutland lawyer and erstwhile bachelor, who obviously was a leader in the organization.

John Cook was the eldest son of Ashbel Cook who had come to Rutland around the time of the American Revolution. John, who was born in 1765, prepared for the law and practiced in Rutland and Poultney. In 1802 he was a 37-year-old bachelor. At that point his lifestyle seemed to take an abrupt turn. Perhaps it was the death of both a brother and his father in 1801 or perhaps it was cupid, but whatever the cause, his bachelorhood ended on March 10, 1802, when he married Sarah Ann Clark of Clarendon.

The story of John Cook, ex-bachelor might have ended here as did his bachelorhood. But it didn't. Sarah Ann lived with him until

October 10, 1812, when she claimed that she was driven from his house by his intolerable and abusive conduct. On Sept. 24, 1817, she filed for divorce and claimed that John's abusive and intolerable conduct had been without any provocation on her part. Since 1812, she claimed that she had had to rely on her own labor and the charity of her friends for her support. When she lived with John she claimed that she was sick and most needed his care and assistance. Rather he "did beat, bruise and wound" her in a most cruel and severe manner. The petition for a bill of divorce noted that John did not reside in the state at that time. However, he died in Rutland on Feb. 22, 1824. Sarah Ann was granted a divorce and later remarried.

Even in early Rutland a number of men were unwilling or unable to make the commitment required by the married life. Today, as springtime arrives, many young couples prepare for marriage, a decision that requires a serious commitment, as many have found out to their sorrow.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 55

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 1800 America was a nation that had just established firm political and economic roots. It was a nation of vast potential and in it were men of inventive genius and courage who were ready to tap this potential.

On Nov. 17, 1800, the Rutland Herald carried a report from New York on one of these inventive

individuals. Mr. Richard Crosby had directed the successful ascension of an aerial balloon at Mount Vernon gardens. The balloon rose 400 feet in the air and then moved magnificently in a southerly direction. A carrier, suspended from the bottom of the balloon, contained a message for any person recovering the balloon to preserve it for the inventor. Crosby proposed to make a voyage in the balloon in January, 1801, "provided the liberality of the public... was... sufficient to defray the expense."

Meanwhile in Rutland a water pump invented by Barnabas Langdon was causing a stir. On Nov. 6, 1800, the machine raised water to a perpendicular height of 38 feet. Only a lack of sufficient tubes prevented the attainment of a greater height. The Langdon pump was a suction pump which defied dependence on atmospheric pressure which cannot force water to follow a piston to a height of more than a fraction over 33 feet. There were claims that the Langdon pump could raise water to a height of 42 feet. The Rutland Herald noted that "the small compass of the machinery, the facility of its operation, and the height to which it may raise water, seem strongly to recommend it for drawing water, in tubes underground, for family use." A model of the machine was erected at Ephraim Blanchard's inn near the meetinghouse in the West Parish where it could be seen in operation.

A group of Rutland men, including Thomas G. Fessenden, a young lawyer, and probably

William Storer, a Rutland silversmith, formed a company to take Langdon's hydraulic machine to England for a patent. There they felt greater financial profit might be found.

Thomas G. Fessenden was selected to be the agent to England and set sail for London on May 5, 1801. Reports that other persons were seeking a similar patent led to hasty tests and ultimately to disappointment. Tests in England showed that the victory over gravity was apparent rather than real. The water had been raised because of air holes in the pipe, a "principle" that had not been included in the specifications. A similar trick had been played upon the French Academy but it had been discovered by a hissing sound.

Fessenden stayed in England and tried to improve the pump and thus avoid a complete loss for himself and his partners in the venture. He did not succeed and returned to America in July, 1804. In later years Fessenden was to learn that a pump working upon an extension of this principle was actually used in England.

Although Rutland's early 19th Century venture in backing an invention was a failure, it was upon such failures that success was built. In later years other inventors and inventions would sprout in Rutland and throughout the growing republic. One of the characteristics of the 19th Century American character was to be a penchant for experimenting, a characteristic that requires a special kind of courage.



Bicentennial Perspective — 56

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the 18th Century the horse was the means of transportation in most of Vermont. Therefore horsebreeding became an important part of the Rutland scene during every spring and early summer.

In 1793 Asa Graves advertised that Koulikan would be available for breeding purposes at his stable in

Rutland. Rates were \$2.50 for a single leap, \$4 for the season and \$6 to guarantee a foal. Payment was due Jan. 1 in wheat at the rate of 75 cents per bushel. Koulikan was from full-blooded, imported stock. In 1794 Koulikan again stood at Graves' stable with similar rates although the price for a guaranteed foal was slightly higher. A second horse, Macaroni, also covered at the same stable at about half the price. Macaroni was well-known for breeding good "colts for the collar." Pasturage for mares was available at 33 cents per week.

In 1795 Graves offered the horse Bay Figure from New Jersey. Bay Figure was 15 hands and 3 inches high and came from fine imported stock. Rates were increased to \$4 a single leap, \$6 for the season and \$10 for ensuring a foal. A discount of \$1 on the season price, and the same proportion for a single leap, was offered for cash in hand. Pasturage for mares from a distance was offered at 25 cents per week. The horse Macaroni was also available again.

In 1796 Graves again offered Koulikan and a new horse, Bold Hunter, who was a full-blooded race horse. Rates were \$3 a single leap, \$4.67 for the season and \$7.33 to ensure a foal.

In 1797 Graves advertised three horses for covering, two of whom were full-blooded racing horses. All would stand in Rutland for five days and then five days at the stable of Abraham Anthony in Pittsford. This alternate arrangement would be used throughout the season. Rates varied according to the quality of the stud horse:

Shakespeare, \$5 a single leap, \$7 a season, and \$12 to ensure a foal; Bay Figure, \$4.50 a single leap, \$6 a season, and \$10 to ensure a foal; and Bold Hunter, \$4 a single leap, \$5 a season, and \$9 to ensure a foal.

The 1798 season found Shakespeare and Koulikan covering at Graves' stable. The two horses alternated between a stable in Salisbury and Graves' stable in Rutland every five days so that one horse was at each stable. Rates were reduced to \$3.50 a single leap, \$5 for the season and \$8.50 to ensure a foal. In 1799 Koulikan stood at the stable of Ebenezer Goodrich in Georgia in Franklin County. Shakespeare again stood at the Rutland stable and was joined by



Cardinal Puff. Cardinal Puff was priced at \$5.50 a single leap, \$10 for the season and \$16 to ensure a foal. Mares from over 20 miles away were offered 14 days free pasturage.

Graves had competition from other stables in Rutland but none of them offered the variety and quality of breeding that Graves could offer. Most of the other breeding stock were offered at cheaper rates. In 1795 James Mead offered Young Ranger at \$3.33 for each mare. In 1797 Henry and Silas Mead offered Janus at \$2 a single leap, \$3.33 for the season and \$6 to ensure a foal. In 1798 Ralph Paige offered Janus at the same rates. In 1799 James Mead offered the full-blooded horse Enterprise at \$6.50 for the season and \$13 to ensure a foal. David Carter offered Young Liberty at his stable in the West Parish at \$1.33 for a single leap, \$2 for a season and \$3.50 to ensure a foal.

In 1800 David Frost offered Young Union at his stable in the East Parish at the rate of \$2 a single leap, \$3 for the season and \$5 to ensure a foal. Young Union was sired by the imported horse Union, owned by Major Delancy of New York State, and from the celebrated mare of Esquire Vanass. He was judged to be as good as any sire in the country.

Today spring and early summer are times for selecting "iron horses" (automobiles) for transportation or pleasure. Usually much care goes into the selection and prices are not an insignificant consideration. Although the "iron horses" are not bred as in the 18th Century, still many people consider the pedigree of the maker. Some choose American stock and some seek the imported qualities. Strength, endurance and speed are still important characteristics although a new characteristic, miles per gallon of gasoline, has become important in an energy-conscious nation. Modes of transportation have changed but not man's interest in the manufacture and selection of its elements.

A community can be torn down from the inside more quickly than from the outside.

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 57

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Memorial Day has again opened the summer season with its holiday, weekend and vacation leisure time. Some Americans in the 20th Century seem to view their work only as a necessary preparation for their holidays, weekends and vacations, which they view as the priority of their lives.

A different work ethic existed in Rutland in the 18th

Century. Even the infrequent holiday was different. People regularly rose before sunrise. On a summer holiday it was no different. Until 8:30 a.m. all were employed in their various occupations. At 8:30 a.m. they joined in a family breakfast which consisted of tea, coffee, milk, bread, butter, cheese and cold meat. After about 45 minutes for breakfast, all returned to their work. At about 12:30 p.m. families gathered at their homes for a holiday meal. "There they partook of an entertainment in the highest degrees refreshing. Their tables were covered with beef, pork, lamb, mutton and veal, with cider, porter, beer, water, and the vegetables of the season."

For about 45 minutes the family enjoyed the pleasures of good food and drink. After dinner they spent about 30 minutes in conversation. A little after 2 p.m. the celebrating citizens returned to their employments until sunset when they gathered for supper. In the evening a few persons assembled at public houses "for the purposes of hilarity and social intercourse" and

amused themselves by drinking the toasts customary on these occasions.

On July 6, 1795, the editor of the Rutland Herald commented on the celebration of the Fourth of July. "Amidst the employments and amusements of the day, the citizens everywhere discovered a confirmed attachment to Republican Principles; convinced that the American system of government has its origin and support in the moral and social nature of man, while they indulged the social affections, they were careful to cultivate moral principles, and to avoid every appearance of impropriety and excess."

Today there is not only a different work ethic but also a different proportion of leisure time. Although most citizens would not question the advantages of the increased leisure time in American life, there is a moral and social question of the quality of the use of that leisure time. As Americans have discovered before, more is not necessarily better.



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In August, 1793, the Rutland Farmers' Library published a fanciful dream which described Vermont as it would be in June, 1813. In the dream, the anonymous author travelled on Lake Champlain from Montreal to a harbor town which was the capital of the county and the seat of the provincial seminary. This undoubtedly represented Burlington.

From thence the author proceeded on a good carriage road to what appeared to be Middlebury. After a brief respite there he continued on toward the metropolis of Vermont which, without question, represented Rutland. His dream-like description of the prospects of Rutland offer both historic and contemporary food for contemplation.

"Taking leave of my landlord, I proceeded onward, perceiving everywhere that industry and improvement had given an agreeable face to the country. As I drew near the metropolis, the gardens seemed to vie with each other in the convenience and elegance of their design, as well as at the exuberance of the growth and promptitude of their fruit. As I approached nearer I found hundreds of elegant brick houses built on the ground where the lambs were wont to crop their flowery food. Those houses were mostly the homes of the working people, who now in their decent plain dress filled the streets, in their excursions to take the evening air, for it was after sundown.

"I alighted at a spacious hotel, which proved to be the Porter House, where people of every condition met to spend a part of the evening. After letting the landlord know my intention of staying a day or two with him, my curiosity led me to mingle with the people in the great room, who seemed taken up in conversation in small parties over their pots of porter, for that had become the fashionable liquor on account of its being made in the greatest perfection in this city. As I was making my observations on the different companies, a large pockbroken man of a courteous appearance, addressed me saying, 'I perceive, sir, you are a stranger.'

"Yes," replied I, 'although I have been in this place about 20 years ago, things have so altered since that I am quite a stranger here, and know not what to attribute these essential improvements to, both in this city and in all the country I have passed through since I came into this state.'

"The greatest alterations," says he, 'that you perceive, sir, are a share of those, which new countries, when inhabited by people of common industry, frequently meet with. But the greater part is owing to a governmental system which began near 20 years since, and which has been steadily pursued about fifteen years.'

"The people had about that time and for some years before, suffered themselves to be led by a set of men, who on account of their monopolizing as they thought, the knowledge and study of the mysteries of the law, had separated from the rest of the community, (except when they found it necessary, for purposes of delusion, to come down among the people) for America, even after the revolution, had been foolish enough to take for law, what they called precedents, many of which were nothing more than the dark sayings and enigmas of ancient British judges, and maxims so interwoven with vassalage and their feudal system, so contradictory to one another and so ambiguous in their nature, that the glorious uncertainty of the law (as they termed it) provided support for thousands and raised ample fortunes for many, who were by this means taken off from the number of working hands, so eager were the votaries of the fickle goddess of law in those days, and so certain were they of obtaining every important appointment, that the able people educated almost all their sons to that profession, and of those who were not possessed of much property, many by one means or another got into the train.

"Farmers left their plows, mechanics their squares and compasses and their shears, to get hold of the horns of the altar of the God of Litigation. But all at once as it were by inspiration, the people of the continent saw their liberties and properties in danger, and appointed

farmers, merchants and men of business, into both national and state legislatures, who were not found wanting in information, and were adequate to the task of reducing this dangerous fraternity to the level of common citizens. Their first step was to establish a system of jurisprudence which rendered the judgments of our courts independent of the maxims and reports of Great Britain, or any foreign nation, and rid them of the dishonorable necessity of blindly following precedents, months, and perhaps years after they had been condemned in the courts where they originated.'

"This masterly stroke at once enabled every man who was disposed to read the laws of his own country, which were now by no means voluminous, to speak for himself, and to know before he commenced an action, its fate and progress, and by that means prevented nineteen twentieths of the lawsuits, a demonstration of which is that twenty years ago there were near 400 actions in the docket of the court in this county, and now there are not more than 50, altho there are six times the number of people there were in it then.

"This revolution, for such I esteem it," said my companion, 'has brought idle and litigious people into contempt, and has made industry honorable. No man is now to expect an important appointment until he has, by his diligence and assiduity in business, made his neighbors respect him. He who brings up his family in idleness, is now sure to meet the censures of all his acquaintance. A man in these days must show that he pays attention to his own affairs in order to be a candidate for taking charge of the public's business.'

"But," says my benevolent friend, for such I began to esteem

him, 'the essential cause of such an increase in people and property in this place is not wholly owing to its being the temporary seat of government, or the residence of the Chief Magistrate, for this salary has not amounted to more than 250 pounds a year these 16 years he has enjoyed it. The sessions of the legislature here have been of some service to us, but we can see without regret a removal of those things to the northward, which time and nature points out.'

"The chief glory," says he, 'of this place has derived from the manufactures which have been set up and have flourished here under the protection of the legislature. Not long after the revolution I was speaking of, the people were convinced that the agricultural, the mercantile, and the mechanical interests were but one. The farmer found the wheat, the beef, pork and many other articles, the produce of his hands, were too burdensome to transport to fickle markets on the Hudson and its canals. He found that the surest way to get stable markets for his surplus produce was to have manufactures enough near home to consume it.

"The merchant fell in with the idea, as while he exported wheat, beef, pork, pot and pearlash, only, the balance of trade was likely to operate against him, as few countries produce the most necessary articles of life in such abundance as to purchase every convenience. Those ideas became prevalent, and manufactures flourished. This city had the good luck to have several public manufacturing companies successively set up and organized in it, to whose flourishing it is in great measure indebted for its present importance.'

It was only a dream that an anonymous writer in 1793 saw for Rutland in the future. But much of that dream came true, although it may have taken more than 20 years. The great bicentennial legacy of Americans is their ability to dream dreams that they make come true.

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Bicentennial Perspective — 59

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Personal relationships and emotions in 18th Century Rutland families are difficult to assess nearly 200 years after the fact. Yet such an assessment is vital to any comparative consideration of the quality of family life. Although the evidence is indirect, fortunately there are numerous signs which make possible some reconstruction of family relationships.

Among the important family relationships there was the father and child relationship. Both members of this relationship held a rather tenuous existence. Child life expectancy was very low and parents could not be certain that a child would live to adulthood. Neither could a family depend on the continued presence of a father, for many fathers fell victim to a premature death.

When a father did attain a long life he often deeded his home farm to a son for a nominal sum, and in some cases for nothing more than love and filial respect. In return the son usually agreed to maintain his father and mother during their natural lives.

In July, 1807, young John Lorimer



Graham visited his uncles and aunts in Rutland. In a letter to his parents he indicated that although he missed his parents, he was somewhat consoled by the affections of his uncles and aunts. According to his parents' instructions, he spent much of his day in study. He concluded his letter with the hope that his parents would not forget to visit Rutland.

There was no Father's Day in the 18th Century but this should not be interpreted as a lack of love and respect of youth for their parents. Perhaps this love and respect was greater in spite of the fact that parents seemed to be much less indulgent than parents today.

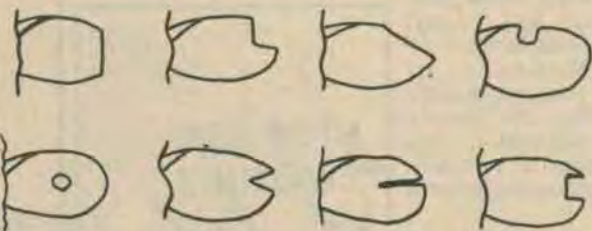
Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 60

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 18th Century Rutland owners of livestock identified their animals by means of earmarks. Each owner devised a unique combination of cuts in the ears of his livestock. He then registered this combination with the town clerk who made an entry of the combination in the town record book.

Earmarks in Rutland consisted of combinations of eight major marks shown below.



The names of the markings (from left to right, top row first) were: full crop, half crop, diagonal crop, half penny, hole, swallow's tail, slit, and square notch.

Combinations of these basic marks were devised using the upper, lower and end portions of each ear. Accordingly a great number of combinations was possible. Between 1780, which was the date of the earliest dated earmark, and 1799, which was the date of the last entry, 94 earmarks were registered in the Rutland town record book. On occasion the earmark was transferred to a new owner. Father and son often used combinations that would easily allow the son to convert the father's earmark to his.

Frequently two earmarks, registered consecutively, differed only in altering the combination from the right to the left ear and vice versa. For example, on August 29, 1780, Phineas Hill registered a mark consisting of a half penny in the end of the left ear and a slit in the end of the right ear. On the same date Solomon Purdy registered a mark consisting of a half penny in the end of the right ear and a slit in the end of the left ear. On June 18, 1783, Purdy changed this earmark to a hole in the right ear. The left earmark remained the same.

Early entries of simple earmarks consisted of a brief written description of the earmark. Later as the complexity of the combinations began to involve both ears, the entry included sketches.

Earmarks were necessary in 19th Century Rutland as livestock roamed rather freely. Fences were used more often to keep livestock out of a garden rather than in a pasture. Today identification of property has little of the creative touch of 18th Century Rutland. Rather it consists of a social security number engraved on a stereo or TV set which is efficient but certainly not material for an article on the tricentennial in 2076.

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 61

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Summer time is travel time. But in the 18th Century more traveling was done in the winter when a sufficient fall of snow made sleighing possible, for roads in Vermont were nearly impassable during much of the year.

In the first years of settlement before the Revolution pioneers became summer residents in Vermont. They left their homes in southern New England in the spring, planted and harvested a crop in Vermont, and then returned to their homes for the winter. Many people still come north to Vermont for the summer but most as tourists.

A letter written in Rutland on June 22, 1789, by the Reverend Samuel Williams to his wife in Massachusetts commented on both the difficulty and frequency of travel in 18th Century Vermont. Williams noted that more than 50 miles of the road to the south was "impassable but by a sly." In a postscript he noted that Samuel Walker had been in Rutland where

he is going to study law. Williams had sent a few lines by him to his wife. He hoped that she had received them. He noted that Mr. Prentice would not go down to Massachusetts until August. He would send a letter by him then. Although summer travel in the 18th Century in Vermont was not extensive, frequent or easy, it did exist.

A restless, mobile spirit has been a part of the American character since the white man first came to America. Even the difficulties of travel did not dampen that spirit. The 20th Century has simply made it easier for Americans to express it.



Bicentennial Perspective — 62

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

There is a tendency to paint the story of the past with an idealistic brush. As most people tend to wish the best in the future so most tend to remember the best of the past. The reality of life, however, is a very mixed condition.

In Rutland, the mid-19th Century was a time of growth which centered around the arrival of the railroad in Rutland. But from the beginning, Rutland's railroad experience was fraught with problems and failures as well as successes, with doubters as well as supporters.

In 1849 the Rutland and Burlington Railroad was rapidly laying track south from Burlington and north from Bellows Falls. As the year 1849 neared completion, workers hastened to link the northern and southern portions of the railroad near Mount Holly. On Dec. 18, 1849, trains, loaded with dignitaries from the north and south, met at Summit and the Rutland and Burlington line was opened to Bellows Falls and on to Boston. Many people had prophesied that the Green Mountains could not be traversed by rail. But they had been wrong. Now Lake Champlain was connected with the Atlantic Ocean by rail.

On Monday, Dec. 24, 1849, passenger service was opened from Burlington to Bellows Falls with a through route to Boston. The train left Burlington at 6:30 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and arrived in Boston at 5:55 p.m. with a one hour stop in Bellows Falls for dinner. A return trip left Boston at 7:30 a.m. and arrived in Burlington at 6:30 p.m. Although the one-way fare to Boston was only \$6, it represented a good week's wages for a laboring man. Employees of the railroad received proportionate wages. First conductors were among the highest paid at \$54 per month. Brakemen received \$30 per month.

Rutland was the operations center for the Rutland and Burlington Railroad. By 1852 two other railroads, the Western Vermont to Bennington and the Rutland and Washington through western Rutland County, had connected Rutland with Troy, N.Y. Rutland was now an important center for three railroads and was connected by rail with both Boston and New York City.



A letter in the Rutland Herald on Jan. 10, 1850, asked how Rutland, with three railroads, could fail to be the most important town in western Vermont. But success demands effort and the writer further noted that "still there is an evident lack of the right kind of public spirit such as makes the Worcesters, Lowells, Lawrencevilles, Pittsfields..." and a host of other such places.

"We now have every natural advantage that these places once had, and with the right direction of capital, we might be making strides toward manly proportions. Why do the vast water powers of this town lie idle? Why are our marble quarries which produce as beautiful marble as any in the world, comparatively idle?"

"Our location and scenery attract the eye and notice of every stranger who visits us in summer." When President Zachary Taylor (at the time a colonel) visited Rutland, he noted, "I fear you do not appreciate your beautiful scenery. I have seldom seen that which surpassed or even equalled it."

In complimenting James Barrett Jr., for his numerous investments in new buildings in Rutland, the writer commented that there were others of greater means but most of their money was kept out on loan or mortgage. "They are always the very men that are the last to become interested in whatever requires money."

On July 1, 1976, regular train passenger service on a seasonal basis returned to Rutland in the form of the Vermont Steam Expedition. To many it was a welcome bit of nostalgia quite befitting the bicentennial celebration. To some it seemed to offer new visibility and markets to the downtown business community. To all it carried the seeds of possibility. But then there were still doubters who were supported by the Expedition's problems. A century and a quarter had not changed human nature.

Bicentennial Perspective—63

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The time for the quadrennial national political conventions has arrived again, thus continuing a tradition that goes back to 1831. The election of 1832 was significant in the history of American political institutions for it was the first campaign in which presidential candidates were nominated by national party conventions. Compared to the old method of



nomination by party caucus, the convention seemed to represent an effort to democratize party politics.

A new political party, the Anti-Masonic Party, was the first to hold a national convention. In September, 1831, 115 delegates gathered in Baltimore, Md., and nominated William Wirt for President. In December, 1831, the National Republican Party (not the Republican Party of today), which considered itself the party of opposition to the Jackson Administration, nominated Henry Clay for President at a convention in Baltimore. In May, 1832, the Democrats held a convention, also in Baltimore, to nominate Andrew Jackson for a second term and to select a candidate for Vice-President. Martin Van Buren won that honor.

Editorially the Rutland Herald took a strong anti-Jackson position and supported the National Republican Party. The Herald also took strong exception to the Anti-Masonic Party in Vermont. It considered Anti-Masonic prejudice against members of the Masonic lodges to be as distasteful as the mutual fraternal favoritism of the Masons about which the Anti-Masonic Party complained. The Herald felt that the influence of the Masonic lodges was on the wane and hardly the appropriate target of a political party.

The political wars found an immediate battlefield in Rutland and Addison Counties upon the death of R. C. Mallary, the U.S. representative to Congress from the district. William Slade of Middlebury received the support of the Anti-Masons. The Rutland Herald suggested either Robert Temple or Charles K. Williams, both of Rutland, as the National Republican, and best, candidate. On June 18, Robert Temple withdrew from the race for the good of his party, leaving Charles K. Williams as the candidate of the National Republicans. Meanwhile the Jacksonians, who had never been strong in the county, met in Brandon on June 21, 1831, and nominated William White as their candidate under the banner of the Democratic-Republican Party.

The Rutland Herald was concerned that three candidates might result in no majority and thus no election. At the election in July, 1831, these fears were borne out. To the surprise of the Herald, however, Slade was ahead and White's few votes were the means by which Williams avoided a defeat. Williams had carried Rutland County but Slade carried Addison County by a greater margin. Slade

the Vermont Supreme Court and declined to run in the third trial. Robert Temple took up the banner of the National Republicans and was supported by the Herald but was unable to even match Williams' showing. William Slade won a clear victory in the November election. In the state elections the Anti-Masonic Party also won a most surprising victory.

The Herald was a strong supporter of Henry Clay and the National Republican ticket but exhibited concern with voter apathy. The Anti-Masonic Party had worked hard in getting their candidates elected, both in the district congressional election and the state election, while potential National Republican voters seemed to stay home.

In Rutland there were numerous National Republican leaders. Robert Temple was President of the State Convention and elected as one of two delegates at large to the Baltimore convention where he was named one of the vice-presidents of the convention. Moses Strong of Rutland was elected to represent the Second Congressional District at the convention. Other prominent National Republicans from Rutland included James K. Parsons, Francis Slason, Silas H. Hodges, Samuel Chatterton, Aaron Reed, A. Mead, S. Griggs, Benjamin Smith, J.E. Cheney, Luther Daniels, Daniel Kelley, William Page and D.P. Bell.

The county Anti-Masonic Convention was held in Rutland in June, 1831. Reuben Thrall and Ralph Paige of Rutland were prominent in its activities. The Jacksonian or Administration Party seemed to have little support in Rutland, although the administration ticket was advertised in the Rutland Herald.

In the fall of 1832 the Anti-Masonic Party ticket again won the state election. The Rutland Herald was again disappointed but still believed that the third party's strength was growing less and that Clay would carry Vermont in the contest against Jackson. Wirt and the Anti-Masons were hardly mentioned as a viable force. The Herald considered the election to be crucial. It voiced the opinion that "the corruption which has so long been gnawing at the vitals of our republic, has become too obvious to be overlooked, and its corroding effects must be checked, or the great arteries of our union are destroyed."

Although Henry Clay and the National Republicans carried Rutland County, the Anti-Masonic

Bicentennial Perspective — 64

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

One of the issues that concerns Americans today in all parts of the nation is jobs. On one hand many workers eagerly scan the help wanted advertisements for desirable economic opportunities. On the other hand employers seek competent and reliable employees through the same advertisements. Too often the employer or the employee is disappointed with the results.

In 18th Century Rutland the great majority of workers were employed in farming their own lands. However, by the last decade of the 18th Century, Rutland was developing many urban economic activities which required the employment of workers. Between 1793 and 1800, William Page sought a journeyman clothier; John Prentiss wanted immediately a good, steady hand to work in an oil mill; Moses Hawks wanted a journeyman to the boot and shoemaking business; James Davis and William Leadwell advertised for a couple of journeymen tailors; Sampson Ladd wanted a journeyman joiner; Daniel Graves in the West Parish sought two journeymen shoemakers; Ralph Paige wanted two journeymen well-acquainted with all branches of the clothier's business; F. Goodrich wanted immediately a good journeyman shoemaker; Baker and Stoddard advertised to hire one or two good brickmakers for the season; and Medad Sheldon in the West Parish sought a journeyman blacksmith.

In some areas of activity the turnover of employees was quite obvious. James Davis had advertised for a journeyman tailor in January, 1795. In February, 1796, and again in September, 1797, he was apparently seeking a replacement.

The printing office of the Rutland Herald frequently sought a good printer. James Kirkaldie, who had been the printer since 1794, was forced to leave the position in May, 1796 due to illness. He died on Aug. 10, 1796. On Aug. 22, 1796, the printing office advertised generous wages and good pay for a good printer. By December, 1796, the

printing office was again seeking a good printer as John S. Hutchins was to leave on Jan. 9, 1797. In February, 1797, Josiah Fay became a printer-partner in the Rutland Herald. On Jan. 1, 1798, the printing office advertised for an "industrious, sober, well-instructed printer, who is a master of his profession" and on Feb. 5, 1798, a journeyman printer was sought. Fay remained the printer until September, 1798, when John Walker Jr., became the printer but not a partner. On April 15, 1799, the printing office again advertised for a "printer capable of taking the care of an office." In January, 1800, Walker left the office and William Fay, younger brother of Josiah, became the printer. He had served as an apprentice in the office since February, 1797. On Sept. 1, 1802, William Fay became a partner in the newspaper.

One job that was unique was advertised on July 30, 1798, by Judge Samuel Williams. He offered \$1,000 for a person to keep the waterworks in the East Parish in Rutland in repair for ten years. The job would probably require two or three months labor in each year. However, it was necessary that the person undertaking it should be constantly near the works.

Jobs were not plentiful in 18th Century Rutland but unemployment was not a great problem because there was not a large labor pool seeking jobs. Most people worked on their own farms and at their various trades. Factories were unknown.

Much has changed in the economic life of Rutland in two centuries. An understanding of the 20th Century job market in some perspective requires an understanding of that change.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 65

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Education has been a community concern for ages. In Rutland in the early 18th Century a meeting of the board of officers of the Rutland County Lyceum on Dec. 21, 1830, expressed this concern. Mr. Josiah Holbrook of Boston addressed the meeting of representatives from many towns in the county on the subject of popular education and the improvement of common schools. He especially discussed those benefits that would accrue from improved methods of instruction.

The meeting resolved that teachers in the county should be invited to meet in convention at the next meeting of the board of the County Lyceum in Castleton on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1831, at 10 a.m. to take into consideration what measures could be adopted for the improvement of the common schools. It was suggested that various school districts might consider the propriety of furnishing their teachers with the means of defraying their necessary personal expenses.

On Jan. 11, 1831, the following article on education by A.G. Dana, Corresponding Secretary of the Rutland County Lyceum, was printed in the Rutland Herald:

"Our age is distinguished for improvements. Within the last quarter of a century more new and valuable discoveries, and their application to important practical purposes have been made, than in any former period probably of equal extent in history. Canals, railroads, and steam power, as applied to machinery and in propelling vessels and carriages, belong, with a few important exceptions, to the above mentioned period. But there is a subject second to no other in importance which has been sadly neglected; and that is the improvement of our common schools.

"It is true, this subject has been often presented to the consideration of the legislatures of most of the states, chief magistrates; and so far as pecuniary support by general taxation was required to carry these privileges to the poor man's door, it has been provided by most

of the states, especially of New England, and some of the middle and western sections of our country. But the evil consists in the prevailing apathy which reigns over the community in relation to the manner in which these funds are expended.

"A great proportion of parents have seemed to rest satisfied, if schools of some sort were kept in the district about as many months in the year, and the same kind of books used, and similar teaching (which was almost wholly by rote) as that to which they had been accustomed when they were children; whereas, the most important part of all, that of learning the child to think, by teaching him only that which he can understand, has been almost wholly overlooked by a very large portion of the community. No book should therefore be put into the hands of a child nor should he be made to pursue any course of studies which he cannot understand.

"We often hear persons complain of bad memories, but the fault, after all, is not so much in the treachery of memory as it is in the want of attention to what they may have heard or read or in the want of a clear understanding of the subject. The mind having received no clear and definite impressions, the memory had nothing to retain. This lamentable habit of inattention commences in the schoolroom with their childhood and clings to them more or less through all after life.

"It is of immense consequence, therefore, to his future prospect that the education of a child should be rightly commenced."

Now, nearly a century and a half later, many of the above problems and observations have a too familiar ring.



Bicentennial Perspective — 66

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the 18th Century the apprentice system was a common route of entry into the world of work. When a young man reached the age of 14 or 15, his father would place him under the care and guidance of a particular craftsman or tradesman. Usually the young apprentice would live and board with the craftsman. Homes and shops were situated geographically near each other and frequently occupied the same building. The idea of commuting any great distance to and from work was not an 18th Century concept.

Apprentices did not receive pay in money but rather in a promise that they would be taught the craft or trade of their patron. In addition they usually received room and board in the home of the patron. On farms where no special trade or skill would be learned, the young hired hand worked for room and board and a small pay.

One of the earliest advertisements in Rutland's first newspaper, the *Herald of Vermont*, was William Storer's advertisement for a "likely active boy, 14 or 15 years of age" as an apprentice to the gold and silversmith's business. When the *Farmers' Library*, Rutland's second newspaper, printed its first issue a year later it advertised for an apprentice to the printing business. The position called for a boy about 14 to 16 years old, who had good learning and could be recommended for sobriety, honesty and good behavior.

Apprentices to the hatter's business, the hairdresser's trade, the paper mill in Fair Haven, the clothier's business, the saddler's trade, the carpenter and joiner's business, the boot and shoemaking business, and the tailor's trade were all sought in the Rutland area during the late 18th Century.

Most of the opportunities were for boys to work in the local area. However, in September, 1796, James Lyon, who had printed the *Farmers' Library* two years earlier in Rutland, wanted two or three boys as apprentices to the printing

or bookbinding business to work in New York City where he was then in business. In Rutland James Davis sought both a boy and a girl as apprentices to the tailor's trade.

The *Rutland Herald* was almost constantly seeking a printer's apprentice as ten different advertisements for an apprentice appeared in a five year span. A printer's apprentice needed not only to be an active and industrious lad from a reputable family, but also to be able to read, write and handle accounts. The *Herald's* persistent search seemed to indicate that such talents were not easily available.

Not all apprentices were happy with their situations for many ran away. However, some returned. John Robertson who ran away from James and Anthony Butler on Aug. 30, 1794, apparently returned, for on March 15, 1795, he ran away again from Anthony Butler.

On Aug. 30, 1794, Simeon Cook ran away from Trowbridge Maynard and his apprenticeship to the saddler's trade. His defection, however, evidently did not ruin his career for on Feb. 1, 1799, he opened a saddler's shop in Rutland. Perhaps the difficulties that led to Simeon's departure were not his fault. In Jan. 1797, Horace Hibbard, another apprentice, also left Trowbridge Maynard. Possibly the difficulty lay with the patron or the trade itself.

Whether runaway apprentices were running away from their situation or searching for a brighter future is an unanswered question. A similar question can be asked about many of the restless young people of the 20th Century.



Bicentennial Perspective — 67

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

For two centuries life in Rutland has been pictured in more than words. In the 18th Century and the early 19th Century this depiction was limited to the medium of the portrait painter. John A. Graham became one of the earliest Rutland subjects when his portrait was painted in London, England, in the late 18th Century. In the early 19th Century William Jennys apparently

did portraits of a number of important Rutland citizens.

Landscapes became a more popular topic for artists with the appearance of the Hudson River School of painters. Asher Durand, one of the best known landscape artists of this group, painted a view of Rutland in the 1830's. This was probably the first depiction of Rutland's landscape in other than words. In the 1850's James Hope painted a number of meticulously accurate views of Rutland landscape and life.

At mid-19th Century a new medium of pictorial representation came to Rutland — photography. Itinerant photographers made occasional visits. Franklin Mowrey was probably the first resident

photographer to locate in Rutland. A number of photographers served the Rutland public during the 19th Century. Among these were W. W. Russell, James O. Merrill, Carlos W. Nichols, Gardner M. Baker and George H. Emery. All had lengthy careers.

In the 20th Century photography became a popular pastime of millions and took on an ephemeral character. Family snapshots, newspaper photos, movie film and finally electronic representation through television provided the most pictorially represented age in the history of man. The breadth and depth of its coverage has been unrivaled. But what of its permanence? What will remain for the Tricentennial?



Bicentennial Perspective — 68

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In June, 1856, the modern Republican Party held its first national convention to select a presidential and a vice presidential nominee in Philadelphia, Pa. Opposition to the extension of slavery was the chief plank in the party platform which made the party almost solely a party representing northern sectionalism. But it gave the party a special appeal to northern reformers.



Opposition was centered in the Democratic Party which was to nominate James Buchanan. The Rutland Herald charged that the Democrats were pro-slavery or at least neutral on the slavery issue. The Native American (Know Nothing) Party was openly opposed to the increased immigration of foreigners and Catholics into the country and the consequent influence of these elements. On slavery it sought to avoid the issue as a nationally divisive one. The party selected Millard Fillmore, an ex-president, as its candidate for president. The Herald did not view the party as a serious contender but thought that it might take some votes in the North that might lead to a Democratic victory in some northern states.

The Herald clearly supported the Republican Party and its opposition to the extension of slavery in the western territories. In Rutland and Rutland County the new party also seemed to enjoy a great deal of popular support.

Through the cooperation of Mr. Duncan, operator of the telegraph office in Rutland, the Herald was able to give Rutland citizens convention results on Friday of convention week. John C. Fremont was chosen by a great majority on the first ballot as the presidential nominee of the party. William L. Dayton was selected as the vice-presidential nominee.

The Rutland response to the

Republican convention results was enthusiastic. The Herald carried a small headline, entitled, "Freedom and Fremont", which announced "an awakening meeting of the citizens of Rutland and vicinity" in the Town Hall in Rutland. A 100-gun salute was promised along with the Rutland Band and public speaking. The Herald concluded with a slogan of "down with the spoils-democracy and up with the banner of freedom, Fremont and victory."

But victory was not to be. The election in November showed Vermont for Fremont by over a 30,000 vote majority. However, the loss of Pennsylvania gave Buchanan and the Democrats the election. Rutland had a larger turnout than ever before and the largest of any town in the state. The vote in Rutland gave Fremont 786 votes and Buchanan 223 votes with only 6 scattered votes.

In the 20th Century national political parties have not formed their platform planks on such clear moral issues as the extension of slavery. Nor have parties been willing to operate on such a clearly sectional basis as the Republican Party did in 1856. But then, neither have modern political parties generated in Rutland the kind of response that met the report of Fremont's nomination. Today nominations are not met by the roar of a 100-gun salute but by the click of television switches.

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 69

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The history and character of a community is affected not only by the people who live there but also by the people who leave the community for various reasons. Many Rutland citizens have moved north, south, east and west from Rutland throughout its history. Some have returned. Some have not.

In 1848 gold was discovered in California and by 1849 many eastern people were heading toward California and the gold diggings. On Feb. 19, 1849, a group of Rutland men set sail from New York City on the brig *Empire* for Vera Cruz, Mexico. On Feb. 27, 1849, they organized a Rutland California Company whose purpose was to provide an orderly emigration with mutual concern for each individual in the group. Arriving at Vera Cruz they made their way across Mexico by way of Mexico City and then by ship to San Francisco.

It would appear that the company all arrived safely at San Francisco. Of the 17 men who signed the company agreement, six died within a few years in California or on the way back.

On March 27, 1851, the Rutland Herald reported that the Honorable Robert Hopkins, one of the Rutland California Company, had arrived in Rutland from San Francisco the previous week. Judge Hopkins was staying with friends in Rutland. He planned to return to California with his family by steamer at the end of April.

The men of the Rutland California Company were not the first nor the last Rutland people to go to California. George Colton who had been born in Rutland in 1797, was a U.S. Naval chaplain who was sent to California in 1845. There he became the alcalde or governor of Monterey. He also aided in establishing the *Californian*, the first English language newspaper published in California. When removed to San Francisco, the *Californian* was renamed the *Alta California*. Colton also built the first schoolhouse in California.

Whether it was through the leadership of a native son or the gold explorations by residents who emigrated, Rutland reached out to influence more than the people within its geographical boundaries. The gold rush to California was not the first nor the last time that Rutland reached out to a larger world. A local bicentennial perspective may tend to place too narrow a limit on the word "local" and to forget that a local man's acts may affect the whole world.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 70

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

One of the long and great traditions of Rutland is the Rutland Fair, now called the Vermont State Fair. During its first quarter century the Rutland County Agricultural Society Fair became an institution capable of drawing crowds of up to 20,000 people in a day. From its auspicious beginning in Castleton in 1846, the Fair began to be the object of high public expectations.

Originally established as a farmers' and mechanics' exhibition forum, the Fair began to take on a greater character of popular entertainment in the 1850's. Band concerts and trotting races became expected fare. In 1856 the editor of the Rutland Herald noted that there was some serious question of the future of fairs as some were becoming nothing much but horse shows. By 1859 side shows began to be part of the Rutland Fair.

In 1860 the highlight of the Rutland Fair was a magnificent balloon ascension by the balloonist John LaMountain and his female assistant. Even the Civil War failed to cancel the annual Rutland Fair. In 1864 an animal menagerie was part of the Fair scene. In 1866 a rope walker performed his death-defying skills.

By 1867 baseball was becoming the national pastime and the Fair sponsored a baseball tournament with monetary prizes. The Excelsior Club of West Rutland won the Rutland County prize and the Unknown Club of Rutland defeated the Killington Club of Rutland for the 1st Congressional District (Addison, Bennington, Rutland and Washington Counties) prize.

On September 9, 1867, the Rutland Herald made an extensive editorial comment on the nature of the agricultural fair.

"If it is an evil it must be tolerated; if it is a blessing, we are certain of its repetition. It affords an opportunity of forming an estimate of the capacity of a section of the country — the extent and variety of its productions, as well as the habits and character of its people, which cannot be elsewhere found. It is scarcely a quarter of a century since they came into existence, and the experience of age has purified them and enabled them to exhibit the most desirable influences.

"Every citizen has an interest in these exhibitions, and can contribute something to make the agricultural fair interesting and useful, and should do something in this manner to help the progress and success of every local institution of this character in the vicinity of their residence."

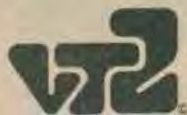
The 1867 observations of the editor of the Rutland Herald on the nature of fairs were quite applicable to the Rutland Fair in particular. Local institutions of this nature can be for good or ill and local participation can be the determinant.



43-3

Bicentennial Perspective — 71

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON



Winning a revolution has often been the basis for determining that the revolution was good. Some historians have used this philosophy to make the American Revolution the only good revolution in the American revolutionary tradition. Other historians have denied that the American Revolution was truly a revolution. Rather they have viewed it as a preservation of the status quo. Whatever the final analysis, the American Revolution was not the last revolutionary movement in Rutland.

In October, 1786, the Vermont Legislature met at the courthouse in Rutland. There was a general feeling of discontent and a large number of representatives wanted the state to issue paper money and to enact a general tender law. A few conservative members of the Legislature in concert with Nathaniel Chipman, who was beginning to assume leadership of a conservative movement in Vermont, were convinced that these measures would increase rather than decrease the evils they sought to remedy. Thus they succeeded in postponing action by moving that the people should vote on the questions at a special town meeting on Jan. 1, 1787, and that returns should be made at the next session of the Legislature in February, 1787. Chipman's views prevailed when the returns to the General Assembly showed that each of the radical measures had been thoroughly turned down in Rutland and throughout Vermont.

After the adjournment of the General Assembly, several citizens denounced its actions and attempted to incite resistance to the

execution of the laws. One of the leaders of the resistance was Colonel Thomas Lee of Rutland, a private citizen who had previously served in a command position with both the militia and the Continental troops during the Revolution.

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1786, the judges of the County Court arrived in Rutland to hold their scheduled session of court. Some of the lawsuits at this session were for recovery of debt and since the General Assembly had not acted to stay such executions, a mob of citizens decided to prevent the court from sitting. A mob of men and boys, armed with clubs, filled the streets and then gathered around the courthouse to protest the holding of the court. The court opened but adjourned until two o'clock in the afternoon. At this juncture a number of men presented a petition to the judges requesting that they adjourn without doing any business. The judges replied that they would consider the petition at the end of the day's business.

When the court reconvened at two o'clock, Colonel Lee with about one hundred men, rushed into the building and threatened the court for not granting the petition. Under the circumstances the court

decided to adjourn until nine o'clock the next morning. Infuriated by the failure of the court to act favorably on the petition, a few of the mob quickly went to a neighboring house where they procured firearms. Upon their return they armed the rest of the mob which then surrounded the courthouse and held all in the building prisoners for about two hours. Failing to thus intimidate the court, the mob released them to their quarters. Again the mob presented its petition which was formally rejected by the court. Part of the mob, well-armed, then occupied the courthouse to prevent the court from sitting the next day. Messengers were then sent to the neighboring towns to obtain reinforcements for the mob.

In the evening Sheriff Jonathan Bell sent orders for assistance in supporting the court to the militia colonels in Castleton, Pawlet and Tinmouth, in the western part of the county. By nine o'clock in the morning two groups of militia had arrived with a force of such strength that the mob left the courthouse and offered no further interference. During the day additional militia arrived from other towns in the western part of the county.

Meanwhile the mob, by misrepresentation and false reports, stirred up indignation toward the court and during the day received numerous reinforcements, chiefly from the western part of Rutland and from Pittsford to the north. Some also came from the neighboring towns of Ira, Chittenden and Clarendon. But even with the additional numbers, the mob was not such as to challenge the militia with force. However, the mob did continue its noisy demonstrations during the day.

At night Colonel Benjamin Cooley, one of the leaders from Pittsford, retired with about 50 of the mob to the house of Lieutenant Roswell Post, about a mile north of the courthouse. As night fell, several of the more prominent members of the mob, who had remained in the village, were arrested. Colonel Lee, however, escaped. About midnight a group of the militia received orders to arrest Colonel Cooley and his company. The militia surrounded the Post house and called on Colonel Cooley and his men to surrender. A few of the mob escaped by diving out a window. In the exchange one member of the mob, Nehemiah Hopkins Jr. from Pittsford, had his arm shattered by a shot. The next day Doctors Ezekiel Porter and Daniel Reed, both of Rutland, successfully amputated his arm. The prisoners were brought back to the village and placed in jail.

The next morning the mob had gone from the streets, the court opened and the prisoners were arraigned. Some were discharged without trial, 21 pleaded guilty and were fined nine or ten shillings and court costs and released. Thirteen pleaded not guilty and received a trial by jury. Charges were discontinued in two cases, five were found not guilty and six were found

Of the six found guilty of inciting riot, one was from Brandon, two were from Pittsford and three were from Rutland. Apparently these six men were the most active in leading the mob. All were fined from six pounds to 25 pounds, and required to post bonds with surety for good behavior for one year and pay court costs. The bonds varied from 50 pounds to 150 pounds. The Rutland men who were found guilty and fined were William Roberts and Benjamin Whipple, two early proprietors from the western part of Rutland. They had also been the agents who had presented a Rutland petition to the General Assembly in October. Silas Mead, nephew of Colonel James Mead, was also found guilty and fined.

The militia were dismissed late Saturday and started home on Sunday morning. As they moved west, word came that there were some two hundred malcontents at Colonel James Mead's house in the western part of Rutland. The court then ordered a recall of the militia and a call for reinforcements.

During the latter part of the preceding week, some of the members of the rebellion had

circulated through the neighboring towns with false charges about the court's attitude and its treatment of the prisoners. The gathering at Colonel Mead's house was the result of righteous indignation falsely aroused.

As Sunday wore on several friends of law and order, such as the Reverend Jacob Wood, who had been a successful revival preacher in Rutland and in the county in 1784, used their influence to persuade the mob that the causes of their rebellion were not real but rather falsehoods perpetrated by a few men. What evil conditions did exist at the time could not be laid to the court. Thus convinced, the mob abandoned its rebellion and volunteered support of the court, the laws and the militia. By Monday all was quiet. The representatives of law and order had triumphed.

Bicentenni Perspective — 72

By JAMES DAVIDSON

As the warm days and cool nights signify the approach of autumn, signs of another football season become apparent.

In Rutland football began as an organized sport in the 1890's. On Oct. 10, 1891, the Rutland Herald noted that the local boys had finished baseball and taken up football. There was talk of organizing a club.

Apparently there was little more than talk because the first record of an organized club appeared in 1893 when Rutland High School played a series of games with a "picked eleven" of Rutland players. The Rutlands beat the High School eleven by an 11 to 0 score at Baxter's Field, off Lincoln Avenue, in their first encounter. A second encounter in the rain and mud at the Fairgrounds resulted in a 4 to 4 tie. The next week a large crowd watched a thrilling see-saw game at the Fairgrounds which again ended in a tie, 12 to 12. At this time a touchdown counted 4 points and the kick after touchdown was 2 points.

The Rutland High School team ended the season with an interscholastic contest against Black River Academy of Ludlow at the Fairgrounds. Ludlow won 18 to 0. However, it was noted by the Rutland Herald that the Rutland team had been unable to play many of its best men. Ludlow also was a heavier team that exhibited better interference and blocking. It was also noted that during the game there was a great deal of foul play.

On Oct. 27, 1894, Rutland High School played Burr and Burton Seminary. Burr and Burton led 10 to 8 until Rutland scored a touchdown at the end of the game. Unfortunately time had run out. The touchdown did not count. Rutland had lost. A large crowd watched the game. The following Saturday, Nov.

3, 1894, Middlebury defeated Rutland High School at the Fairgrounds, 28 to 4.

In 1896 the Rutland English and Classical Institute formed a team. On Oct. 8, 1898, the Rutland Institute football team went to Burlington where they played a tie game with the University of Vermont (5 to 5). It was a hotly contested game and, except for the fumbling, was interesting to watch. Both teams showed want of practice and the Institute's fumbling in the first half was a wretched display. "Umpire Austin was a constant source of comfort to the college boys."

On the same date the Rutland High School football team went to Castleton and defeated a team there by 5 to 0. Castleton had the ball within three feet of the goal as the game ended. The game was noticeable for the "kicking" on both sides. The excitement of football had arrived in Rutland.

Today two high school teams in the City of Rutland play full schedules which include each other. On the weekends, television opens a window on a long season of college and professional games. What began as informal gatherings for games, has now become a highly organized, multi-million dollar business that has become an American institution, for better or worse.



Bicentennial Perspective — 73

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 1857 a severe depression struck the United States after nearly a decade of prosperity. In Rutland the depression was felt but the business community continued buying and selling, hoping and looking for prosperity to return. Fortunately a very positive self-image pervaded the community as was evidenced by its physical development.

New buildings were prominent. A new three-story brick block was erected on Merchants Row by the Clark Brothers. In one portion of the block they sold jewelry, clocks, toys and fancy goods. The center store was occupied by Foster and Cole who moved from another downtown location. They sold men's and women's clothing. The Rutland Courier, a second newspaper in Rutland which began publishing in the summer of 1857, noted that the interior decorations of the Foster and Cole store and its arrangements were not to be surpassed for beauty or design anywhere. The Misses Penfield moved into rooms over the Clark Brothers where they offered a complete assortment of ladies millinery.

On the west side of Merchants Row Mr. H.O. Perkins erected a three-story brick building. The Courier office was on the first floor and its engine and boiler occupied the basement. W.A. Bacon, "the hair oil general," had a store in the second story where he sold books, stationery and his various preparations.

Community spirit seemed high in spite of the depressed economy. The Courier noted that some good samaritans had combined to place a lamp post and lamp at the corner of

Merchants Row and West St. It was hoped that the village corporation would take the hint.

Mr. Daniel Verder had finished a two-story building for his bakery. Mr. Huntoon was completing a three-story brick building immediately east of the Town Hall block. Builders were in the process of completing the foundation of the U.S. Courthouse and Post Office (now the library) on Court St. In November the selectmen let out the contract for a new street from Main Street to the Railroad Depot grounds to be known as Center St. There was talk of a second bank.

But with all the positive physical activity in the rapidly growing railroad center of Vermont there were those whose hearts failed them in view of anticipated ruin and want.

The downtown Rutland business community has recently again been challenged by a nationally depressed economy and a wavering local self-image. The federally-assisted Rutland Historic Preservation Project of the Downtown Development Corp. may be an opportunity for rebuilding a community and a self-image that in the 19th Century weathered the storm of depression. But that may depend on whether the cup is seen as half full or half empty.



Bicentennial Perspective — 74

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

When the historian looks upon the past he does so from a specific point in time that is a specific distance from the event. This vantage point of the historian is a part of his perspective and varies with time.

Today there are numerous publications that feature columns offering perspectives on the past of 25, 100 or 200 years ago. The Rutland Herald is one of these. It has had a strong sense of historical perspective for nearly two centuries, undoubtedly inherited from its illustrious first editor, the Rev. Samuel Williams.

In 1848, nearly seven decades after the American Revolution ended, many communities were experiencing the exit from this life of many contemporaries of the Revolutionary era. Although many of their memories may have faded with time, they offered a personal perspective on the events of the time by people who were there.

On March 15, 1848, The Rutland Herald published an article entitled "Sixty Years Ago" which shared many of the memories of a 69-year-old man who came to Rutland in 1788 at the age of nine.

"A few days since, 'an old man eloquent' — eloquent in his way, in the vivid description of the events and scenes of his boyhood — called on me, and as he ran over the tale of the past, I noted the main incidents.

"He came to this forest covered region at the age of nine, and the past 60 years were full and fresh in his memory. The country then, was in its primeval state, except patches of agriculture here and there, letting in the sunshine, and exhibiting a thin sprinkling of log huts, and the rare spectacle of an occasional framed house.

" 'I went bare head,' said the chronicler, 'til I was twelve years old, through sun, and rain, and snow; and a mile to the log schoolhouse, my head as red as a fox, and my hair rattling with icicles. My hat was made by James D. Butler, the hatter of the incipient village of Rutland. Our fare was the good old bean porridge, and bread and milk.'

"The fashion and economy of the day allowed no shoes, except in the pinch of winter — boys and girls all barefoot. No overcoats, but only coarse wollen trowsers and jackets. The girls wore petticoats and short gowns, which, when clean, were thought good enough for a Sunday dress.

"Wagons were unknown, and the chaise or chair as then called, was rarely found. The common mode of travelling was on foot, and on horseback with the bye-gone pillion. The winters were severe and long, the snow deep, the roads indifferent at all seasons. The greater part of the country was still a forest. Foot paths and marked trees guided the settlers in their short journeys for business, and social interviews. Whitehall was then of no account, and the road to it so bad that Boston was ranked at about the same distance.

" 'Was it healthy in those times,' I asked. 'Oh healthy! We had little need of a doctor. I remember attending a great funeral of Mr. B—t, who died of consumption; and consumption was thought as wonderful then as the cholera when it came.' 'Truly,' I concluded, 'that fatal, and now so prevalent, disease is a thing of modern delicacy, refinement, and idleness. It spared the temperate, bean-porridge living, exposed and hardy sons of the forest. Frugality, exposure, daily toil, must be the parent of hardihood, heroism, strong nerves, and the preventative of disease. So I derived a moral from the tale.'

" 'In those early times,' continued my historian, 'the word of parents was law. I never thought of disobeying orders, nor hesitated, and there was no going away from home without permission. But it is very different with boys now!'

" 'In those rough times we enjoyed life well. I used to hitch to a big log, and ride into the door dragging it into the house and we kept a roaring fire through the cold winter nights — plenty of wood. The girls used to walk three miles through the woods by marked trees for an evening visit. Leaving at nine in the evening, they would go home in an hour, and think nothing of it. Now they must ride, if they have only a short distance to go.' 'Behold,' thought I again to myself, 'the fathers and mothers of the Revolution — hardy and heroes all.'

" 'The girls then were worth having: at every house they were



proud to show great bundles of yarn and linen thread. But now they show a calico or silk dress, or a little curious needle work!' Excuse the old forester for his severity, for he has some justice on his side. 'Their wheels and looms were heard in every house. Now they are all gone by.'

"Then all were friends, and every house was a tavern for a traveller. There were few stores, and these small, in all the region round, and only now and then a stray peddler with a few goods.

"The village of Rutland had then a log jail, and a log courthouse, and log dwellings excepting two or three frame houses. The large green was

a great hemlock swamp, full of high stumps.

"This is the substance of the story — a view of the country sixty years ago. What a change has come over the spirit of the old man's dream. He amid a new generation; and the transformation of the wilderness into thriving villages, and rich farms, and splendid dwellings, and telegraphic wires, and railroads the whole seems like a change produced in a night by the wand of some magician. But he is faithful to the memory of the past; and if the rude pioneer age of man has its trials, it is also free from much of the vice, and feebleness of an age of luxury and refinement. Let us venerate the remnant of the father who cut away the forest, and by the life of hardihood and adventure were trained for the shock of the Revolutionary contest; and who in peril, hunger, and nakedness won the virtues, and laid the cornerstone of all our subsequent greatness."

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 75

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The public green or common has been an important location in nearly every town in New England. It has provided a central ground for all types of community gatherings and celebrations. Military organizations have frequently met and drilled on the common.

The public green or common in Rutland was given by Thomas Hale on Jan. 11, 1790, "in consideration of the sum of ten pounds paid and secured by Samuel Williams and others, inhabitants of the said town of Rutland, as also for and in consideration of the useful advantages to be derived to me (Thomas Hale) and the rest of the inhabitants of Rutland, and the public in general." The land was given for the sole and exclusive purpose of a public green or common, "ever to be kept open for that purpose and free from any encroachments of building, fence or yards of any private person or persons whatever."

The boundary lines of the common ran from the old courthouse on West Street south 20 rods (330 feet), thence east 14 rods (231 feet), thence south 55.5 rods (915.75 feet), thence east 6 rods (99 feet) to the highway (South Main Street). From there it ran north 62.5 rods (1031.25 feet) to the southeast corner of the lands of Nathan Osgood who owned an acre of land jutting into the northeast corner of the village green. From there the

boundary ran west 13 rods (214.5 feet) to the southwest corner of Osgood's land and thence north 12.5 rods (206.25 feet) to West Street and thence west 7.25 rods (119.625 feet) to the first mentioned boundary. This composed over four acres of land.

On Jan. 20, 1790, Nathan Osgood sold the acre of land in the northeast corner of the village square to Samuel Williams and others of Rutland for 18 pounds except the buildings, timber and fence which were to be preserved by Osgood and removed by June 1, 1790. The land was to remain for the sole purpose of a public green or common forever.

The early citizens of Rutland knew the value of a public green for community activities. But today not all of the public activities on the town green receive broad public support. A variety of sponsors and a diversity of purposes have often made the use of the public green controversial, to say the least.



Bicentennial Perspective — 76

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The desire for money and riches is not only a 20th Century phenomenon. In the early 19th Century the desire to find a buried treasure was exhibited in the behavior of a number of people in the Rutland area who came to be called "the money diggers."

"Some years subsequent to the close of the Revolutionary War, in the dearth of money, one



Abraham Homistone who then roamed over the south part of this town, calling to mind the many stories he had heard, and devoutly believed in his native place, New Haven, Conn., about Capt. Kidd, having buried his treasures on the shores of Long Island Sound, resolved to try his fortune in recovering a share of the buried wealth, if he could obtain a sufficient number of associates. He soon found three men ready to join in the hopeful expedition, viz: Ebenezer Andrews (who lived where William Green does), Samuel Hobbs (whose father Jacob Hobbs, carried on the business of a vulcan, alias blacksmith, a few rods south of Ruel Parker's Tavern) and Eleazer Flagg (who lived west of the house now occupied by O.H. Rounds). These worthy compeers — all but Hobbs had families — provided themselves with a two horse wagon, and it is supposed with suitable utensils for digging and testing metals, actually left their homes, went to New Haven, and were absent a considerable portion of the summer season in the Quixotic but often tried attempt, to raise the wind by disinterring the infinitely-magnified and never found wealth of the noted freebooter, whose deeds of ruthless daring in the reign of good Queen Anne, have gained him a time-lasting notoriety, to the shivering dread of all the children in Christendom who listen to English nursery songs. It is needless to add, that these money diggers shared the fate of the renowned Grecian Argonauts, who accompanied Jason to Colchis in pursuit of the far-famed Golden Fleece of mythology, and returned 'bootless and weather-beaten home'.

"While they were gone, one Moses Goddard, a wagish specimen of a class of nomadic mischievous loafers, now happily less numerous than then, contrived a plan for playing a slight joke on the elder Mr. Hobbs, Sam's worthy sire. Having assembled a suitable number of lovers of fun in the tavern of Mr. Henry Gould (where Mrs. Brown now lives on Clarendon North Flats), Goddard proceeded to relate his story as follows, viz: he had just met a traveller from New Haven, Conn., who had related to him the particulars of the wonderful success of certain Vermonters in digging up money — the traveller had described the personal appearance of each of the company consisting of four. They had labored long and ardently amid the scoffs and sneers of the good citizens till complete success had been attained, though their ultimate

The ghost of Nathan Tuttle, who had been murdered during the Revolution by Tories, was said to have appeared to Obdiah Wheeler, Tuttle's nephew. The ghost indicated where Nathan had buried a treasure but Obdiah could only dig it up if he met a series of conditions, one of which was to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Obdiah never accomplished the conditions and never would give the location which the ghost had told him.

There were those that thought that by sorcery and divination the location might be discovered and the treasure seized. Among those who believed the treasure could be obtained was Ebenezer Andrews. He went to Ludlow where he hired a noted conjuror to locate the treasure.

"The conjuror having arrived, proceeded first to discover the point of compass or direction from them in which the treasure was secreted — he drew his circle on the floor, divided the circle into quarters, and filled the whole with figures and hieroglyphic characters according to the cabalistic formula — after a sufficient study of the mysterious manifestations of his profound art, he declared the money was in a direction which he mentioned, coinciding nearly with the Northwest.

"Having ascertained the direction the next point was the exact distance. It is a popular belief that twigs of the witch hazel, held in a particular manner, by certain persons, born under a propitious planet and skilled in the practice of their natural gift, by their voluntary bending, point out with unerring certainty the location of the precious ores and metals. The conjuror supplied with the hazel wands and accompanied by Andrews and Samuel Tainter (whose father was a brother of Judge Bowker's wife), started from the Andrews house and proceeded along in the careful use of the wands

until he came to a place about forty rods west of Henry Mussey's house, then stopped, stamped on the ground, and declared that there was the spot.

But according to the black science, earth-buried treasures can be dug for only at night — therefore having provided themselves with shovels, pickaxes, crowbars, a dark lantern etc., in the dark, silent, solitary hours of midnight these worthies worked and delved not altogether as if working on the railroad, or digging potatoes, for certain misgivings, certain twinging of the nerves, came over them, as they thought of the possibility of a conflict with the Prince of Darkness. Still on and on they dug till at last one of them struck the lid of a chest and the clear ringing sound told of wealth at hand.

Now, the great object was to keep the treasure where it was, until they could dig down to it. For this purpose the hazel rods had been loaded with quicksilver, whose all potent influence was such, that provided here was enough of it, no power on or under the earth, could tear away from its attractions the precious metals. The conjuror having caught up the loaded rods, Andrews and Tainter dug away as if for their lives — digging and perspiring, and perhaps shivering a little with supernatural fear, excited by their vast hopes, they had almost clutched the object of their pursuit, when "chink, chink, chink," the money was heard to rattle, as if the Foul Fiend by excessive tugging was gradually moving it away from the influence of the rods, and "chink, chink, chink," fainter and fainter was heard the more distant rattle, and the chest had passed away forever.

Alas for human foresight. Poor Andrews was often heard to declare with woeful visage, if they had only had a few more mineral rods they should have succeeded — drove off the Evil Spirit and obtained the money.

Thus the desire for money and riches led to some rather strange, if not foolish, behavior in 19th Century Rutland. But has not the 20th Century desire led to equally strange and foolish behavior?

Bicentennial Perspective — 77

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

For centuries men have found the attainment of justice an elusive goal. But even more elusive has been an agreement on what constituted justice in a particular situation.

On April 25, 1850, a writer who used the pseudonym "Justice" wrote to The Herald on the subject of equal rights.

"Exclusive privileges are injurious to the people at large — have a tendency to build up aristocracy detrimental to the public good and inconsistent with the letter and spirit of our free and liberal institutions.

"When for any purpose or object; whether it be private feelings or at the beck of some influential corporation, party or sect; or through overwrought prejudice . . . we stray from justice" . . . "we ought to remember that we are responsible . . . for the willful abandonment . . . of justice.

"The time was (and the day has not yet gone by) when a few men would turn their batteries against anyone who would dare not follow submissively in their footsteps. The mere command of 'Cry him down! Cry him down!' and the hired minions are ready for the dirty work — the tongue of slander is set in motion — the innocent victim must fall or surrender, except he has nerves of iron braced with bars of gold.

"We place men in offices of honor, power, trust and emolument, who often use the influence of their

office and their own personal influence which we conferred on them to crush the very men who brought their names from obscurity; and when reminded of the fact, recline on their dignity and tell us — 'I feel under no obligation to you; as a member of our party you were bound to sustain me.'"

The following week a reply from Tim Basswood appeared in The Herald. The Rutland Board of Civil Authority had been charged by innuendo "with a want of independence, and with being operated upon by improper influences in the discharge of their public duties." He further noted that it did not seem very much like justice "to assail the conduct of men by unworthy and disgraceful imputations in the discharge of their official duties without some proofs upon which to rest them."

The problem of honesty and justice was an important human problem in Rutland in 1850. It should be no surprise that it is still a problem in our contemporary society.



Bicentennial Perspective — 78

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Presidential election time has arrived again. And with it much is written about the phenomenon of apathy in the 20th Century electorate.

Many of the commentaries suggest that such apathy did not exist in earlier days. In 1800 at least one Vermont newspaper reprinted the following poem from the United States Chronicle.

"Let Jefferson or Adams rule,
Pray what is that to us? —
Why should we rave, and play the fool,
And make this mighty fuss?
If Adams be the man, or not,
If things go right or wrong,
We'll make the fire, and boil the pot,
And sing a jovial song.
Then let the people fume and fret,
In chase of honor's bubbles,
Like true philosophers we'll sit,
And laugh at all their troubles."

In 1800 the percentage of the populace that was eligible to vote was smaller than it is today. No women voted and young men had to be 21. Even with these restrictions it was considered a good turn out if 60 per cent of the eligible voters

participated in the voting.

Although the ideal of full participation in voting is often talked and written about, a more realistic assessment of apathy can be found in a comparison with the statistics of the past.



Bicentennial Perspective — 79

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The season of "colds, gripes and the flu" has arrived. With it has come a common concern for the danger of epidemics, for catching "what's going around." A national immunization program has been inaugurated to counteract the possibility of a death-dealing flu epidemic.

In 18th Century Rutland the danger of epidemic was just as probable as it is today, if not more so. In addition the physician's bag of medicines had little that could effectively counteract the prevalent diseases.

Medical theory traced epidemic diseases to the "pestilential state of the atmosphere." The rate of pestilential progression seemed to determine the severity of the disease. Weather and climate were thus related to disease. Although the precision of 18th Century medical explanation was not great, still the vague assignment of the cause of disease and epidemics was not in total error.

Medical treatment left much to be desired. Although inoculation for smallpox had come of age and

was beginning to limit the dreaded disease, the treatments for many common health problems were far from helpful. Common methods of treatment for epidemic pneumonia or pleurisy were sweating, blistering, blood-letting, and antiphlogistic methods (using counteracting inflammatory treatments such as mustard plaster etc.). Some doctors relied on opium and other stimulants to treat pneumonia without blood-letting.

Medicine has made great advances in the last two centuries. Often our historical perspective on medicine leads us to expect miracles from the medical profession and to forget that the doctor is not God.



Bicentennial Perspective — 80

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

November brings signs of the approach of winter. However, Rutland's 18th Century reactions to winter's warnings were quite different from those of 20th Century inhabitants.

Snow tires and anti-freeze are 20th Century concerns. But in 18th Century Rutland most people were farmers. In the "Farmer's Callender" of an almanac published in Rutland in 1798, the following reminders and suggestions give an insight into everyday life in 18th Century Rutland.

"Now perform what you omitted last month before rains and snows prevent you.

- Spread loam, marl, mud, bogs etc. over your barnyard.
- Finish plowing for summer fallow.
- See that your plows, harrows etc. are well-housed.
- Pull and gather in turnips, parsnips, beets, carrots etc. Put them down in sand to preserve them.
- Put up oxen, horses and cows to hay; feed your cattle out with husks, straw etc.
- Dig and heap stones for walls.
- Look to your fattening hogs, if dainty, give them plenty of brimstone.
- Remove your cabbages into your cellars, or into pits made in dry ground.
- Overflow your meadows.
- Move your bees under shelter.
- Thrash your barley, as it is now wanted by the maltsters.
- Set and plant fruit trees.
- Thrash your grain of all kinds, it will never thrash better.
- Put up cattle of all kinds.
- Secure your cellars from frost.
- Feed geese and turkeys.
- Look to your fattening swine.
- Draw off cider, to keep it from souring, if not done before.

"Every farm yard, where any considerable stock is kept, should be furnished with a large shed, and a rack under it. For where there is no clean snow to lay the straw, and other mean fodder upon, it should be put into the rack. A larger proportion of the dung will be dropped under the shed, than in any other part of the yard. And this dung will be better than the rest, as it will not be washed by rains, nor so much dried by the wind and sun.

"Sheep, when they are under cover, should draw their hay through a rack, made so close as just to admit their noses."

Bicentennial Perspective — 81

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Inflation is a word that is all too well-known to public leader and ordinary citizen alike. However, it is not a new word in a nation that experienced inflation in its very birth.

As the Continental Congress issued weakly secured money during the Revolution, the rate of inflation rose. In 1777 prices had inflated over four times what they were in 1775. By 1778 prices were nearly eight times the 1775 prices. In 1779 prices were 38 times what they were at the beginning of the war and by 1780 they were over 135 times the 1775 prices. By 1781 the American Revolution began to wind down and the Articles of Confederation offered a weak but more stable leadership than the Continental Congress had offered. Prices began to deflate slowly.

In Rutland there was concrete evidence of the effects of the inflation. At a town meeting on Aug. 20, 1781, the town voted to collect the Provision Tax ordered by the Vermont General Assembly but

only provisions would be accepted. Money would be refused. This tax would provide the needed provisions for the Vermont troops. Money was not edible and it was certainly questionable whether money could procure the necessary provisions.

Inflation is not a comfortable condition, but a true bicentennial perspective requires an understanding that Rutland and the nation have seen worse and overcome it. The record of the community's growth and prosperity is a basis for faith and not despair. It is likewise a challenge that requires effort and not lethargy.



Bicentennial Perspective — 82

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The 1850 Federal Census included a collection of quite detailed data on industries in communities throughout the nation. The Census reported that Rutland had 18 industrial organizations with over a \$500 capitalization. Six of these were in the marble industry. They employed a total of 135 men at wages of \$20 to \$25 per man per month.

Six businesses were involved in the production of boots, shoes, harness, saddles and leather. They employed no more than ten employees each. Wages were \$25 to \$33 per man per month. Undoubtedly the slightly higher wage level was due to the fact that most of these employees were craftsmen. One boot and shoe business, Martin and Henry, also employed four women. However their wages averaged only \$18.75 per month per woman. Obviously women in Rutland, as in the rest of the nation, did not receive compensation equal to that which men received for their work.

Four industries had no more than four employees. They made hats, house furniture, barrels and carriage bolts.

There were two slate pencil factories. One factory employed eight men and 12 women. The men averaged \$20 per man per month and the women \$12. The other factory employed six men and eight women. The men averaged \$13 per man and the women \$10.

Although Rutland industries did not provide a means for the rapid enrichment of their employees, they did provide a tremendous return on capital investment for their owners. Two businesses made over a 300 per cent return on their total capital

investment in one year. Two made between a 200 per cent and a 300 per cent return on their investment. Three made between a 100 per cent and a 200 per cent return on their investment. Six gained over a 40 per cent return. Three gained at least a 16 per cent return.

One boot and shoe manufacturer gained only an 11 per cent return on his investment. John Cain, who owned one of two slate pencil factories in Rutland, appeared to lose six per cent on his investment while the other slate pencil factory, owned by Graves and Brown, gained a profit of 357 per cent on their investment. They reportedly produced nearly as much as John Cain's factory at half the wages and with less than one-quarter of the raw materials.

For most industries in Rutland, capital investment was returned quickly and at large rates of return. These profits were net as there was no income tax to reduce them.

In 1850 profit prospects for Rutland industrialists were good. The financial prospects for the laboring man were not nearly as favorable although prices and wages were lower than today.

Industrial investment in Rutland today still offers opportunity for profit but not to the degree that it did 126 years ago on the threshold of the industrial age.



Bicentennial Perspective — 83

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Thanksgiving Day of the bicentennial year 1976 has passed. One of English-speaking America's oldest traditions has been celebrated again. Or has it?

A detailed reflection on the traditional Thanksgiving celebration as compared to the modern celebration raises many questions as to what remains of the tradition.

The original celebration was a day for prayer. The meal was only a part of the celebration. Today the single family turkey and its consumption is the center of attraction. Even the preparation of the meal in the past provided a different scenario. The turkey was raised and prepared by the family. Today the preparation consists of ordering, thawing and cooking a guaranteed tender turkey. Vegetables were grown and preserved for Thanksgiving in the old days. A harvest relationship was obvious. Today preparation

involves thawing the frozen package. Of course it all makes Mother's job easier. But is the essence of the day in the results or the activity producing those results?

Today dads are busy spinning the TV knob for the football game. Years ago they guided a spinning knob that churned the homemade ice cream which was so conveniently purchased at the store this year. But times change.

Thanksgiving Day 1976 was a comfortable, enjoyable day. But is that what Thanksgiving Day is all about?



Bicentennial Perspective — 84

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Capital punishment is a contemporary controversy that has captured much public attention. The dispute has involved not only philosophical but legal and practical considerations.

In the 19th Century the philosophy of capital punishment seemed to be accepted. However, a murder case in Rutland in 1814 posed some very practical problems.

On March 4, 1814, James Anthony was tried for the murder of Joseph Green, a merchant of Rutland. On the day of his death Green had made preparations for a journey by stage to Boston to purchase more goods. Since the stage left Rutland at a very early hour, Green, as was the custom of local businessmen, had left his family about nine o'clock in the evening to take lodgings at the hotel from which the stage departed. Green supposedly stopped at the hat shop on Main Street where Anthony pursued the hatter's trade. There Anthony apparently killed Green with a hatter's cooling iron and stripped the body of its clothing and money, of which there was a goodly sum. The body was then concealed under a wood pile in the back part of the shop.

It was the next morning before the friends of Green realized that he had not taken the stage to Boston. Bruises on Anthony's face led James D. Butler to inquire concerning them. While Butler was questioning Anthony in his shop, Elder McCuller ran his cane into the wood pile. The body was discovered and Anthony was apprehended. Soon after the body was discovered, the pocketbook and all the money were found in Green's house which led to the suspicion that Anthony had had an accomplice although none was ever convicted.

A large number of spectators attended the trial. Anthony pled not guilty. The jury heard the evidence and the charge of the judge. After a few minutes of consultation, the jury returned a guilty verdict.

April 14, 1814, was set as the day of execution. The sheriff arrived in the town on the 12th and by the 13th the gallows had been erected and all

the necessary preparations had been made for the hanging at two o'clock on the 14th.

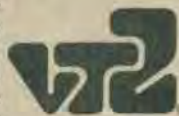
The jailor, Issacher Reed, was a near relative of Green and it was thought to be more proper if someone else held the keys to the jail. Therefore the sheriff, his deputy, or the state's attorney performed this function. Great pains were taken to prevent the prisoner's escape.

Deputy Sheriff Jedediah Hammond volunteered to watch the prisoner on the night of the 13th. About sunrise on the 14th Anthony persuaded Deputy Hammond to go upstreet and request his relatives to visit him. Meanwhile he said he had some writing to do. Immediately after the deputy left the jail, Anthony called for some water from the woman who fed the prisoners. He then inquired about his breakfast. He indicated that he was in no rush as he had some writing to do. In about a half an hour the woman returned but could not rouse the prisoner. A messenger was sent to the deputy who returned, opened the inner door, and found the prisoner hanging. He was immediately cut down but attempts to resuscitate him failed.

Deputy Hammond had observed every precaution prior to leaving the prisoner. He had removed his handkerchief and everything with which he thought he could injure himself. However, Anthony tore out the lining of his hat and coat sleeves and tore the tick of his pillow to make a cord. He split a strip of board from his stool. Then he tied the cord to the board and pushed it up between the stones of a ventilation space overhead and turned it crosswise. After this he hung himself with his knees resting on his bunk. A jury of inquest returned a verdict of suicide.

Meanwhile an immense crowd had gathered for the hanging and thousands more were on their way to the event. The village was filled with people. Although it seemed that Anthony would cheat the crowd, the execution still appears to have been performed. One observer believed that they hung the dead man. Another believed that they hung a live dog. Whatever the truth, the crowd desired satisfaction.

All discussion of capital punishment seems to revolve around the question of society's motives for imposing the penalty. And the motives of society are not simple nor easily determined.



Bicentennial Perspective — 85

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Concern for the welfare of the needy in other parts of the world was evident in Rutland as early as the mid-19th Century.

The Rutland Herald of February 18, 1847, carried an advertisement which requested friends of suffering Ireland in and about Rutland to meet in East Rutland between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Feb. 27 for the purpose of sending some relief to the starving poor of Ireland. Eleven citizens signed the appeal and not all were Irish. In the same issue of the Herald, the editor put aside other articles planned for the paper to inform readers not only of the unhappy situation in Ireland but also of the severity of the problem.

Great suffering had become the lot of the lower orders of the Irish people due to the failure of crops. A widespread famine accompanied by disease as fatal as the plague was desolating the countryside. Irish laborers in New York had forwarded nearly one million dollars in aid to their friends in Ireland. The editor of the Rutland Herald commented that, "in view then of the appalling condition of this people, shall it be said that of the great abundance of New England — of Vermont — that nothing here shall be done to alleviate in a measure the condition of our brethren abroad, who, if they are entitled to nothing else from us, are at least entitled to our pity, our commiseration, and our aid in their present suffering condition." The duty of Rutland people was clear in the editor's mind.

The Irish Relief Meeting, held at the courthouse on Feb. 27, produced

several resolutions entreating aid for the suffering Irish and condemning the failure of the English government to aid her subjects in Ireland. A committee was appointed to prepare an address requesting funds for the suffering Irish. The address was printed in the Rutland Herald of March 4, 1847.

Support for the relief project in Rutland County seemed strong although a letter to the editor of the Herald on March 4, 1847, noted that some citizens who normally would open their hands with true liberality were withholding their donations not from any selfish motive but because in their minds it was England's duty to alleviate the problem which she had refused to do. The author of the letter decried the criticism of England in the Irish Relief Meeting resolutions. He recommended a charity to those in need which did not seek to place responsibility for the cause.

As Rutland responds to 20th Century charitable appeals it might be well to weigh motives and adjust the value of the gifts to the prosperity of the time before indulging in self-congratulations for generosity.



Bicentennial Perspective — 86

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Merchandising is an art which has gone through many changes in its approach to the public. In 1846 during the Mexican War, a Rutland bookbinder advertised his business in a rather threatening manner:

DECLARATION OF WAR!!!

I, ELISHA THURSTON, Commander-in-Chief of the Paste Board Forces to the inhabitants of Rutland and the adjacent territories, Commanding (Bowling).

Having invaded New York, I return reinforced and stand before you, the people, with big guns (materials for bookbinding), the best the city affords, and do command (entreat) you forthwith to surrender and lay down your arms (the books you want to have bound) before me at my Headquarters (the bookbindery). If those terms of capitulation are not complied with, I shall as the only alternative, march in, subdue and take possession of the bindery now in Rutland and carry it away captive to Whitehall.

Given, decreed, and published to all the land, the 26th Day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

E. P. T. Com. of P.B.F.

Such advertising would undoubtedly not meet with great success in 1976. Contemporary advertising is not nearly as commanding in tone but is it less commanding in effect?

Bicentennial Perspective—87^{12-28/76}

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 1797 John A. Graham, a prominent Rutland lawyer, travelled to England where he published *A Descriptive Sketch of the Present State of Vermont* (London, 1797). In his *Descriptive Sketch* Graham offered a view of Vermont to the British public. Two observations, one on America's future and another on her revolutionary past, from a viewpoint nearly 200 years ago, provide interesting reflections for the close of the national bicentennial.

Graham was a boundless enthusiast who prophesied the future impact of America on the world. "Contemplate, with astonishment, the opening scenes of grandeur and importance traced out by Providence on the immense continent of the new world: a world, on whose greatness, at a future period, must depend, in a greater or less degree, the councils, the safety, if not the fate of the rest of the globe."

On the causes of the American Revolution, Graham differed from the traditional explanation. "The war between England and America, did not originate, in consequence of the destruction of the tea at Boston as has been erroneously supposed: far from it; the destruction of the tea was only a secondary matter — the dissatisfaction commenced in 1764, in consequence of the arbitrary insolence of the Governor and Council of New York, towards the settlers west of the Connecticut River, under the New Hampshire Grants. In fact, had the Governor of New York obeyed His Majesty's Royal Order, made in July 1767, in consequence of the application of Messrs. Robinson, Brackenridge, and Hawley, Agents for the Settlers at the Court of London, instead of

seeking his own private interest and emolument, the people of New England (who were as deeply interested in the New Hampshire Grants, as the actual settlers) would have remained quiet and contented.

"But the improvidence of the Governor and Council, in making grants of the lands, and harassing the settlers even to hostilities, in open violation of His Majesty's Royal Orders, incensed the people of New England and induced them (with a great appearance of justice on their part) to become jealous of the government of Great Britain, which they had too much reason to believe trifled with their grievances, and they from that moment declared they would not be ruled by a King, whose edicts were so scandalously and infamously contradicted by those to whom he entrusted the execution of them. Hence arose the first cause of opposition in America against the parent country."

Although Graham may have been stretching a point by making Vermont's Revolutionary concerns the primary cause of the Revolution and appealing to his British audience by assigning blame to British colonial officials, his views nevertheless contribute in some manner to a Rutland perspective on the bicentennial of the American Revolution.



Bicentennial Perspective — 88

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Almost without exception, various colds and influenzas seem to threaten at the winter holiday season. An advertisement from the 1847 Rutland Herald offered a valuable assessment of the problem but probably not as effective a solution as available in 1977.

Influenza and Consumption

It is indeed a melancholy truth that thousands fall victims to consumption every year, from no other cause than neglected colds; yet we find hundreds, nay thousands, who treat such complaints with the greatest indifference, and let them run on for weeks and even months without an inkling of the danger.

At first you have what you consider a slight cough or cold. You allow business, pleasure or carelessness to prevent you from giving it any attention. It then settles upon your breast. You become hoarse, have pains in the side or chest, expectorate large quantities of matter, perhaps mixed with blood. A difficulty of breathing ensues, and then you find your own foolish neglect has brought on this complaint.

If then you value life or health, be warned in time and don't trifle with your cold, or trust to any quack nostrum to cure you; but immediately procure a bottle or two of that famous remedy, Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, which is well known to be the most speedy cure ever known as thousands will testify whose lives have been saved by it.

For influenza it is the very best medicine in the world.
None genuine unless signed "L. Butts" on the wrapper.
For sale by Luther Daniels, Agent, Rutland, Vt.

The more the years pass the more they seem the same.

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In March, 1847, an Odd Fellows Lodge called the Otter Creek Lodge No. 10 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) was organized in Rutland. It was the twelfth lodge to be organized in Vermont. The first had been organized two years before.

In the Rutland Herald of March 18, 1847, the Secretary of the Otter Creek Lodge No. 10 addressed

a letter to the town clerks and others of Rutland County which espoused the purpose of the lodge as "an institution established for the promotion of the social intercourse of life, banishing its toils and its cares in the free and mutual intercourse of its members, for the encouragement of the Arts, Science and Literature of the age and for the oversight and protection of one another." In his letter the Secretary noted that many young men had been engaged in inquiring into the history of Vermont and its parts. Some had walked miles with a blank-book to converse with an aged veteran of the Revolution or an early settler and to record his story. One of the objectives of the Otter Creek Lodge No. 10 was to encourage such ventures.

The Lodge vowed to sustain and disseminate such benefits. In this vein the town clerks of the various towns of the county were requested to furnish:

- (1) Copies of any deeds that showed the boundaries of the towns or had particular historic merit.
- (2) Copies of the earliest records in each town, particularly those that related to the earliest settlement or the Revolution.
- (3) Written summaries of conversations with the oldest men in town regarding events that related to the Revolution and the

difficulties with New York and other important events.

Geologists were requested to furnish "duplicate specimens of all rocks, formations and minerals, with their localities, whether within or without the place, with a minute of the soil and description of the place in which they are found."

Botanists were requested to forward the results of their researches, with a notation of the locality where they were found.

The 200th Anniversary of the establishment of the independent Republic of Vermont in 1777 is now at hand. As the early settlement and Revolutionary exploits that established that Republic are considered by Rutland citizens, it is most appropriate that the community also be aware of its responsibility to preserve the history that presently surrounds it in the minds and hearts of its oldest citizens. This is a treasure that can soon become irretrievable.

Concern with the life of 200 years ago can easily blind the citizen to the value of assessing and preserving the present. The past is not an isolated moment but a continual movement that connects each person to all reality whenever and wherever it exists. History is not the sterile grasping of a past event, but an extension of man's consciousness from now to then.



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 1847 Rutland and Vermont were about to enter a new and closer relationship with the rest of the country and the world. A proposed magnetic telegraph line between Troy, N.Y., and Canada included Bennington, Rutland, Middlebury and Burlington on the route. The completion of the line would give Rutland nearly instantaneous communication with New York City and Washington, D.C.

On July 8, 1847, a representative of the proposed telegraph line informed citizens of the village, meeting at the Courthouse in Rutland, of the telegraph line and the measures necessary to obtain its advantages. The tentative route was based on geographic advantages but also depended on the encouragement received from the various communities in the form of stock subscriptions. The representative of the line, a Mr. Cornell, had made preliminary assessments for stock subscriptions in the towns where station houses would be established. In Rutland the assessments amounted to \$3,000, which the Rutland Herald at the time thought would be readily raised.

By the next week the Herald began to have doubts that Rutland would meet the necessary financial commitment. The Herald commented that "It is a matter to be regretted that any coldness should exist in relation to a matter of such importance, and though it may not perhaps be for us to question the judgment of those who turn a deaf ear to this call, yet we will venture to assert that if we now suffer this excellent opportunity to pass us, our repentance will be deep and lasting." Of course the Herald had a great natural interest in the success of the project.

By late September all the stock had been subscribed and the first installment paid. Construction was scheduled to begin immediately and there were prospects that the line would be completed and put in operation before the end of the year.

On Sept. 29 an assessment schedule was advertised by the management of the Troy and Canada Junction Telegraph Company. Twenty dollars per share was due on Oct. 5, \$15 per share on Nov. 5, and \$10 per share on Dec. 6. Payments could be made at a number of places along the line. In Rutland, payments would be accepted at the Bank of Rutland.

A change in the route of the line was also announced. The line would now run west from Rutland to Whitehall and from there north to Middlebury. This change was due to the failure of the citizens of Brandon to meet their subscription for stock.

Progress on the telegraph line was rapid. By November poles had been set almost all along the line and wires were being strung between Troy and Bennington. As rapid as the progress was, the Burlington Free Press was even further ahead. In early January, 1848, the Free Press announced that the wires of the telegraph had reached Rutland and that by the end of the week they would be completed to Whitehall. On Jan. 13, the Herald noted that lest the public consider it "a remissness on our part in giving early intelligence of the important events transpiring around us, we would beg to state that in this matter the Free Press has beat the telegraph altogether. As yet the enterprising projector of the line, Mr. Cornell, has not been able to reach this place; but we are happy to say that he is approaching us, if not with telegraphic speed, at least with all due diligence."

The line was completed and communication opened on Saturday, Jan. 15, 1848. On Jan. 20 the Herald noted that by aid of the telegraph it was able to give news almost simultaneously with the same news in Boston, New York and Albany.

Editorially the Herald commented that "had anyone two years previous predicted the completion at this time of such a project as this, he would have been laughed at as a visionary, madman or fool; and yet now since the thing is done, none seem surprised at it. All say they 'always thought the project would succeed,' and the erection of the posts and wires over nearly 200 miles of telegraph in our state excites almost as little interest as does the arrival of our regular mail coaches. And so we go. Upon the starting of each new and great improvement, many say 'we can't' while the few say 'we can'; the 'we cans' usually carry the day against the 'we can'ts' when the latter own up and at once prepare themselves for a new onslaught upon the next project of improvement that shall be brought before them."

But even success has its qualifications. On Feb. 2, 1848, the Herald noted it was not able to give the latest telegraphic news as there was a breakage in the wires between Rutland and Troy.



Bicentennial Perspective — 91

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the 1830's the abolition of slavery was an issue that burned intensely in both the North and the South. Northern anti-slavery societies, through petition, publication and public meeting, attempted to stir Americans to take a moral stand on the issue of slavery. In turn many Americans considered the anti-slavery movement as an unwise fanaticism.

In 1835 the Vermont Anti-Slavery Society sought outside speakers to aid in their campaign. Samuel J. May, a Unitarian minister from Brooklyn, Conn., and a close associate of William Lloyd Garrison, answered the call. May, who was also corresponding secretary of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, was a supporter of immediate emancipation of slaves.

At a public meeting in Montpelier, May had been prevented from speaking by some members of the audience who obviously abhorred his radicalism on the slavery issue. The Rutland Herald noted the difficulties in Montpelier and advised Rutlanders not to attempt to disrupt a meeting scheduled to be held in Rutland at the Baptist Meetinghouse on Oct. 27, 1835, at 6 p.m. The Rev. Mr. May was to speak on the evil and abolition of slavery. The Herald advised that "all who are opposed to it will show their disapprobation by keeping away from it. We think this is the most effectual method to abate the intermeddling by what our southern neighbors call the 'northern fanatics,' with their internal affairs." The Herald highly disapproved of mob action but wished that "the Anti-Slavery Society could be persuaded more to regard public opinion and abstain for the time being from holding such meetings, at least, while the whole country is in such a feverish state on this subject."

On Oct. 27, 1835, the meeting was held at the Baptist Meetinghouse and the Rev. Mr. May attempted to speak to what was described as not more than 20 or 30 people. He was not able to complete his address as there were some persons in the

meetinghouse whose feet constantly shuffled. There was also some noise outside the meetinghouse, apparently made by a few boys intending to disturb the meeting. The Herald considered the disturbance mild although there undoubtedly would have been a greater disturbance had it not been for the restraining action of some responsible citizens. The only serious event was a rock thrown through a window of the meetinghouse by what the Herald described as "some wanton lad."

There was also a firing of guns "at some distance from the door" of the meetinghouse. The Herald presumed that this was not intended to disturb the meeting as there had been similar firings the previous evening, "a kind of sport with the lads of the village" and not unusual.

A stranger had passed up and down the village ringing some sleigh bells, evidently to rally a mob. It failed to achieve its purpose and had he not desisted, the civil authority would undoubtedly have seen that he stopped.

The Herald, in summary, commented that it conceived the effort to ameliorate the condition of the slaves as an unwise effort at this time. "Conscious as Mr. May may have been in stirring up the people of Vermont on this exciting question, we think he must be sensible that it is no time to meddle with it."

The controversial episodes of history consistently illustrate the fine line between courage and wisdom. Yet it is difficult for an involved society to accurately determine that line. The present is no exception.



Bicentennial Perspective — 92

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In late 1847, a Young Men's Association was formed in Rutland to provide educational, social and cultural activities, especially during the winter season. One of its first ventures was a course of popular lectures on literary and scientific topics that would be interesting and instructive to the general public. The Rutland Herald hoped that people would support the

Association as the charge had often been made that Rutland showed less interest in such endeavors than any other village in the county.

During the fourth week of December, Rev. James D. Butler opened the program series of the Association with two lectures on "Switzerland and the Alps" and a third on "The Pilgrims" after an unavoidable postponement from the third week. Tickets for a single lecture sold for 12.5 cents. A ticket for all three lectures sold for 25 cents. The three lectures were well attended and highly appreciated. The last lecture on "The Pilgrims" was especially excellent.

In January, 1848, Professor Shedd of Burlington and Professor Meacham of Middlebury College were engaged to deliver lectures. On Monday, Jan. 24, Professor Shedd spoke on "The Relation of the Higher Literary Institutions to the Prosperity of the Commonwealth." On Friday, Jan. 28, Professor Meacham spoke on "The Changes in the Saxon Race, Since the Settlement of This Country, and the

Causes of Those Changes." Tickets for a single lecture sold for 12.5 cents. Tickets for the two lectures were available for 20 cents. They could be obtained from the Bookstore and from the Treasurer, J. Bordenman Page.

The Herald commented that Rutland "has been for a long time devoid of all traces of a literary character, (if it ever acquired one,) and the fact has been so generally known among us, and so much deplored, that I am persuaded nothing but an opportunity is wanting to insure the cooperation of all, in an endeavor to improve our condition." The Herald's observation seemed to be supported by the fact that the lecture by Professor Meacham showed a greater attendance than the previous lectures.

Literary and cultural activities today also have problems with public taste and attendance. But then again, in 1848 no house had a television set.



Bicentennial Perspective — 93

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

On Feb. 21, 1816, the Rutland Herald published a letter from William Smedly of Sudbury on the subject of the use of gas for lighting. Mr. Smedly had recently returned to the U.S. from England where he had observed the process for making illuminating gas from mineral coal.

The gas for illumination was produced by placing a quantity of mineral coal in a furnace or gas oven made of cast iron. The furnace was tightly sealed and a fire kindled under it. As the coal in the oven was heated, gas rose and was conveyed through long cylinders into a globular collector which was covered with water. By this process the gas was purified and freed from tar. The gas was then piped the distance required to brass dischargers, which, when turned on, emitted a portion of gas sufficient to produce a brilliant light when ignited by a candle flame.

Mineral coal was produced from decomposed wood which still retained a large quantity of tar. Only half the coal was consumed in the process of producing gas. The remaining cinders were worth about half the cost of the coal.

Since his return from England, Smedly had made some experiments on gas. He had demonstrated that wood could produce a gas as pure as that made from mineral coal. The flame from such gas was also as brilliant as that from gas made from mineral coal. Pine wood produced the least quantity of gas and that of an impure quality.

The editors of the Herald claimed that the invention of the gas light was by an American. To the

dishonor of some Americans, the invention was treated with derision by many people until the inventor received approbation in Europe. Now it was understood that a gentleman had been dispatched from Philadelphia to London to obtain the apparatus for a gas factory.

The Herald noted that "it is curious to observe in some persons a prejudice to anything domestic, and a predilection for everything foreign. Fulton was held in derision by many of our citizens for his inventions, until they had been applauded in Europe. Now his name will be handed down to posterity, as the brightest luminary of his age; and his inventions will prove invaluable auxiliaries to the convenience and wealth of our countrymen. Perhaps the invention of gas may prove another source of incalculable benefit. At least, we ought to give an encouragement to domestic genius, which shall not compel it to fly abroad for support."

Even in the early 19th Century in the Rutland area, energy research was going on. But the Biblical adage that a prophet is never recognized in his own land seemed to act as a brake on the movements of progress. Ever it was and perhaps ever it will be.

January, 1909. "The Frontiersman's Bride," considered one of the best pictures of the season, was playing at the Opera House. This film offered a scene of the West which included an Indian raid, the capture of the bride and a chase by scouts. It closed with a Bowie knife duel in a canyon. The program also included "The Gentlemanly Burglar" which depicted the life and reformation of a thief. Comedy was provided in "Miss Toney's Suitors" and "Fooled By His Own Valet."

Dreamland, another Rutland theater, showed the "newest pictures of foreign and domestic manufacture." The management claimed that Dreamland offered the best, cleanest and most up-to-date pictures. It was open from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and charged only 5 cents admission. In the first week of January, 1909, "Bessmerizing" was one of the feature pictures. It showed the process of making the famous Bessemer steel, renowned throughout the world for its excellent quality. Each step of the process was shown, from the deep glare of the furnace, as it opened its cavernous mouth to swallow up the crude metal, to the finished product. The program included "Angry Servants" and the mad

chase of the "Determined Bill Collector." "Francesca De Rimini" was an exact portrayal of the world-famous opera. "Hey There, Look Out!" was one of the comical numbers offered. "Motoring Under Difficulties" was the story of an auto party stalled on an old time corduroy road.

"A Night in Dreamland" was a fairy tale of Christmas Eve which was especially interesting to the children. All the teddy bears, candymen and dolls came to life in this film. "A Clown's Love" was a strong human interest film which closed the program.

Jack Long sang two new songs in his usually excellent manner, "Taffy" and the latest popular success, "Sunbonnet Sue." He won encores at every show.

Today much of the variety of entertainment found in the moving picture in 1909 is found on the television screen. An examination of the movie programs shows a greater similarity with public taste today than would be expected.

The media has changed, but the basic entertainment taste of the public still seeks the exciting, the funny and the educational, although it may be in different proportions. Times change faster than the people who live them.

Bicentennial Perspective — 94

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The current winter weather has been a topic of great concern. Comparisons of its severity with that of winters past have been frequent. At the first signs of thawing, community conversation turns to thoughts that "spring cannot be far away."

In the early 19th Century, Rutland had two consecutive years in which summer came quite late, if

at all. An observer's notes detailed the following progress of spring in 1815: "May 19th, severe snow storm which in some places gathered two or three inches deep. From the 15th to the 20th, in the mornings, ice was found on vessels of water abroad, plowed land crusted over with frost. 22nd, shad trees now in bloom, wild plumbs whiten, not a cherry in bloom, garden plumbs not blossomed, not a leaf filled out on any tree, forests assume but a dull greenish grey aspect, the forwardest meadows and wheat fields afford but ordinary pasturage. June 1st, apple trees just in bloom, forward meadows only good pasturage."

In 1816 conditions were even worse. The observer noted that there had been "little snow the winter past, ground froze deep, towards the last of March, heavy thunder and rain. May 15th, last night the ground froze about an inch deep, considerable ice in vessels of water abroad. 16th, the western gazettes (as I was told) stated that at this time, the harbour of Buffalo was blocked up with ice for seven miles. On the morning of this day, the snow (in the county of Rutland) lay more than one inch deep, the day was chilly, and the snow went off but slowly. On the north side of buildings it lay all day. Large icicles hung to houses. 17th, last night the water froze thick as glass; chilly. 19th, not a leaf even half filled on any tree. The forests exhibit a greenish grey, attended

with a sickly yellow aspect; strawberries and dandelions just begin to blossom in the most forward places. Osiers, shad trees, and wild plumb trees now in blossom. Meadows and wheat fields furnish but poor pasturage. I have seen no toad or frog spawn this season. It remains chilly. 29th, this morning there was ice in the vessels of water at my door. Meadows generally, only afford tolerable pasturage. Maples not fully leaved out. Ash and poplars have little more than largely opened their buds. This morning the mountains were covered with snow. June 6th, hard frost last night. Ice this morning thick as glass. The day very cold. Snowed hard in some places. 7th and 8th, very cold. Hard frost each night. Ice on small streams of water. People journeyed, wrapped up in winter clothing. Saw men ploughing with great coats on. From respectable authority I am informed in some of the north parts of this state, it snowed much of the time for three days, and that it gathered near half leg deep. 12th, frost every morning since the 6th inst. until this morning, and most of the time very severe."

As the inevitable assessments of the winter past turn to prognostications for spring and summer, it may be well to remember that things could be worse. In 1816 winter lasted nearly all year long.

38-2

43-3

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Early in the 20th Century, Rutland had a new entertainment medium, the moving picture. Although it was still silent, the movie ushered in a new age of entertainment. As a service to its readers, the Rutland Herald provided reviews of the various offerings at the Rutland theaters.

The Opera House offered both moving pictures. In the first week of January, 1909, "The Frontiersman's Bride", considered one of the best pictures of the season, was playing at the Opera House. This film offered a scene of the West which included an Indian raid, the capture of the bride and a chase by scouts. It closed with a Bowie knife duel in a canyon. The program also included "The Gentlemanly Burglar" which depicted the life and reformation of a thief. Comedy was provided in "Miss Toney's Suitors" and "Fooled By His Own Valet."

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The media has changed, but the basic entertainment taste of the public still seeks the exciting, the funny and the educational, although it may be in different proportions. Times change faster than the people who live them.



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Today Rutland voters go to the polls to elect a mayor. In 1892 Rutland became a city and in 1893 held its first election for mayor. Until well into the 20th Century this was an annual event that much resembled musical chairs.

At the first election in 1893, a Citizens' caucus nominated Dr. John A. Mead, president of Howe



Scale Company, as a candidate for mayor. Col. J. C. Joyce, who made the nomination, expressed approval of the new City Charter and the city form of government. He further noted that when the government of the city was launched that a good man should be at the bridge. "Now it is pretty safe to say that a man who takes good care of his own business is a good man to take care of other men's business," he said. "I desire to place in nomination a business man; a man who will give us just what we want. I nominate Dr. John A. Mead." John W. Stearns, a furniture store operator, provided token opposition. Mead received 1,579 votes to 513 votes for Stearns.

In 1894, a Citizens' caucus, attended by 350 citizens, nominated Byron K. Houston for mayor. There was no opposition in the caucus. In a letter to the Rutland Herald, published Feb. 20, 1894, Houston denied the rumors that he was controlled or acting in the interest of any man, corporation or set of men. He had made no pledge except to do his very best for the interest of the city if elected.

Another letter to the Herald from John Huffmire denied that Houston had promised him the position of superintendent of streets. Huffmire denied that he sought the position or had ever discussed it with Houston. He said rumors to the contrary were totally false.

On Feb. 20, 1894, a strictly Republican caucus of over 400 Republicans nominated Gen. Levi G. Kingsley for mayor. John D. Spellman tried to side-track the caucus to support Houston, but he failed.

On Feb. 23, 1894, a Democratic caucus, attended by 250 Democrats, nominated Charles Clark for mayor. It was noted that he was a friend of labor and came to the political arena without the backing of any foreign corporation. The following day, a Workingman's caucus of over 300 citizens voted approval of the Citizens' caucus and Houston, but not without some opposition.

The election was hotly contested. Kingsley received 720 votes which gave him a plurality of 130 votes. Clark was second with 590 votes, John D. Spellman, who ran as an Independent, had 459 votes and Houston, representing the Citizens' caucus, had 459 votes.

Dr. John A. Mead denied that he or the superintendent at the scale works had approached any of the workers as to supporting Sheldon. Mead stated that he was not at the meeting to watch them nor to second the nomination of Sheldon, although he would vote for him.

The caucus nominated John A. Sheldon with 262 votes to Clement's 144 votes. Charles H. Joyce had 82 votes. A majority of 253 was necessary for nomination.

John A. Sheldon won the March election with 1,068 votes. John D. Spellman, the Independent, received 863 votes. A. A. Orcutt, candidate for the Socialist-Labor Party, received 48 votes. The participation rate had been 83 per cent of the checklist.

In 1896 a Democratic caucus of 500 voters nominated Alderman Thomas H. Browne for mayor. In a seconding speech, P.M. Meldon said "They tell us that the present mayor, John A. Sheldon, left the service of a large corporation to spend his whole time in the duties of his office. If he has brought us to the very brink of ruin when he only devoted a part of his time to this city, in God's name what would he have done if he had given all his time to it?"

Browne charged that there had been City Charter violations. The street commissioners had done as they pleased and the mayor and aldermanic president allowed it all. Sewers had been laid out to meet present needs with no regard for future requirements. Browne called his candidacy a protest against the mismanagement of the three years previous.

The Republican City Committee members were caught with "egg on their faces." They had scheduled their caucus after the filing deadline for candidates. Therefore they had to choose between John A. Sheldon, the incumbent, and John W. Stearns, both of whom had filed. The loser agreed to withdraw. Stearns won the caucus nomination by 418 votes to Sheldon's 267 votes.

In the March election Thomas H. Browne became the first Democratic mayor of Rutland by a 16-vote victory. Browne garnered 1,034 votes, John W. Stearns, 1,018 votes, and John D. Spellman, who ran as the candidate of an

of no bank or corporation. He promised an honest and real reform administration such as the people of the city had clamored for for many years. As Spellman put it, "A man is not good or bad because he is poor or rich. It does not necessarily follow that because a man has been a success in his own business that he will successfully handle public affairs."

But even rebellions end. In 1901 Spellman was defeated by the Republican candidate, J. Hutton Hollister. Spellman admitted that his first term had been successful because of a "class of rascally servants."

For much of its early history as a city, Rutland grappled rather unsuccessfully with the problem of selecting a good mayor who could successfully lead the city. Often it was difficult to find good candidates willing to run for office. Controversy and charges of corruption in City Hall were frequent. The charges usually revolved around the street department or the police department. Often the mayor was criticized for connections with private interests. Although the Republican Party showed a dominant influence in the elections, no mayor was able to develop a personal dynasty in the early years of city government. But in all its failure, the Rutland electorate turned out over 80 per cent of the checklist year after year.

Today's candidates, issues and reactions strike many familiar chords from the past. But has today's electorate lost faith in the system? A turnout of over 80 per cent of the checklist would be quite a surprise.

Letters to the Editor

SURVEY

Today at Town Meeting many of us will have a unique opportunity to express our opinions on some of the critical choices facing Vermont in the next several years.

The "VT3 Survey on Vermont's Future" will be available at Town Meeting in over 180 Vermont cities and towns. The survey, sponsored by Vermont Tomorrow, asks us for our views on such issues as energy, the economy, land, agriculture, and quality of life in the state.

I urge Vermonters to take a few minutes at Town Meeting to answer the 12 questions. The survey is a

Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 97

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Income tax time has drawn near. Rutland citizens have begun the process of computing their taxes while keeping an eager eye on the proposals of the Carter administration in Washington as it debates the alternatives of income tax relief. Although the national government has taxed the people of the United States since the establishment of the Constitution, it has not always done so through an income tax.

In the late 18th Century Congress established a tax based on the valuation of lands, dwelling houses and slaves. The State of Vermont was divided into assessment districts with a principal assessor and assistant assessors in each district. Rutland, with nine other towns, was in the 5th Assessment District in the Second Division of Vermont. Nathan Pratt of Rutland was the principal assessor of the district.

Under the valuation law the owner of property was required to submit separate lists describing (1) houses above the value of 100 dollars with outhouses, appurtenances and home lot not exceeding two acres, (2) lands not listed in the first list and (3) slaves owned. Records or assessment lists taken under the state laws could be used. Where the owner failed to file a list, the assessor could make one.

The house description included the name of the owner or occupant plus the situation, dimensions, number of stories, number and dimensions of windows, and the

materials of which it was built (wood, brick or stone). The house description also included the number, description and dimensions of outhouses and appurtenances.

The list of lands included the quantity of land in each separate tract or lot and the number, description and dimensions of all buildings not included in the above list.

The valuation of lands was made by the assessor from these lists in relation to other valuations in the same district. Assessments were posted and an opportunity to contest them was given to the taxpayer.

Taxation nearly 200 years ago was not based on income but on the value of the income-producing elements. Of course the tax was appropriate as the great majority of people gained their living from the soil and the rate of taxation was low. As income tax time arrives it is well to remember that there were, and are, alternatives to it. However, the alternatives may not be as desirable. We've been there before.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 98

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

This week both Irish and non-Irish citizens in Rutland will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. But as with so many community celebrations, it will lack some of the enthusiastic focus of 19th Century celebrations.

After the Civil War the number of Irish immigrants and the level of Irish nationalism in Rutland ran high. In 1869 a band composed of members of the St. Patrick's Benevolent Society of West Rutland and the Hibernian Literary and Benevolent Society of Rutland led their respective societies through the principal streets of Rutland in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Upon completion of the parade they returned to St. Peter's Academy for refreshments. In the evening the Rev. Mr. Cunningham of Middlebury delivered a lecture at Ripley's Opera Hall. Local talent then presented two laughable farces entitled "Limerick Boy" and "Deaf as a Post". Admission was 50 cents per person.

In 1870 inclement weather and rough walking prevented the parade. However, an evening program was held.

Parades with bands and all the attendant celebration on St. Patrick's Day are now a bit of the past in Rutland. Snow and cold have made their return improbable. But nostalgia and warm weather do excite the imagination of an old-fashioned St. Patrick's Day parade. We have lost a bit of the flavor of life in Rutland but perhaps not forever.



Rutland

Bicentennial Perspective — 99

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Many people remember 1914 as the year the Great War in Europe began. Although Rutland was well aware of the war and its progress, local interests claimed a priority in their concerns.

In September the Rutland Fair Week was accompanied by a number of Carnival activities in the city in the evenings. Rutland could claim to have one of the most active community efforts in the nation during the first week of September.

In 1914 the Fair and Carnival directors arranged for the preparation of a motion picture film of their city and its activities during Fair and Carnival week. The Dadmun New England Cinematograph and Film Company of Boston was selected to do the filming and sent H.M. Ahearns and an operator to make the film.

During the week they filmed people in front of the churches, theaters, and on the streets. Events at the Fair were filmed and decorated automobiles from the evening Carnival parade in downtown Rutland were filmed the next morning.

According to Mr. Ahearns, the representative of the film company, the film would include scenes of the city and its people with "the

unsightly ones being avoided." He also noted that he saw great advertising possibilities in the film when completed.

Recently a reel of this film came to the attention of the Rutland Historical Society which, assisted by a matching grant from the Vermont Historical Society, has had the film restored and preserved in 16 mm. print form. The Rutland Historical Society will be showing this film to the public, March 29 at 7:30 p.m.

The history of a film such as this raises the question of what citizens of the present are doing to offer citizens of the future a perspective on the present. The contemporary culture has frequently been referred to as a throw-away culture. Preservation of evidence of the present thus becomes all the more urgent.



Bicentennial Perspective — 100

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

On Nov. 1, 1824, the Vermont State Legislature chartered the Bank of Rutland, the first bank in Rutland and the fourth in the state of Vermont. Its original charter limited its existence to Jan. 1, 1841.

The charter authorized a capital of \$100,000 which was divided into 2,000 shares of fifty dollars each. Chauncy Langdon, Joseph Burr, John Jackson, Henry

Olin, James D. Butler, Robert Temple, Moses Strong, and Henry Hodges were appointed commissioners and directed the opening of subscription books for a ten-day period on Jan. 30, 1825.

Each subscription required the down payment of five dollars in gold or silver coin. If the proposal was oversubscribed at the end of the ten-day period, subscriptions would be deducted from those of over 20 shares. If that was not sufficient, proportional deductions would be made from all subscriptions, however, reserving whole shares intact. An amendment to the charter, passed by the Vermont State Legislature on Nov. 18, 1824, directed the commissioners, in striking off shares from the subscriptions, to give a preference to the inhabitants of the state and also to strike a part or the whole of shares subscribed in the name of persons other than the real owners.

The subscription books for the Bank of Rutland closed on Feb. 10, 1825. The charter had authorized 2,000 shares at fifty dollars per share making a capital of \$100,000. The subscription books showed 10,069 shares equal to over half a million dollars. The editor of the Rutland Herald did not recollect so large an excess of subscriptions in this part of the country. The commissioners were thus forced to strike off 3,000 to 4,000 subscriptions in the whole and average the remainder. The surplus was paid back upon the appearance of the subscriber or his written orders.

On Mar. 3, 1825, the new stockholders of the Bank of Rutland met and appointed Robert Temple, Joseph Burr, Moses Strong, Nathaniel M. Fullerton and Francis Slason as directors. According to the charter, directors would thereafter be chosen annually on the second Tuesday of January by the subscribers in person or by proxy. Vacancies occurring would be filled by the remaining directors.

A voting formula was provided in the charter. Stockholders could only vote for those shares owned three months previous to the voting. Each share, not exceeding four, received one vote. Six shares received five votes, eight shares had six votes, ten shares had seven votes and there was one vote for every five shares over ten, provided that no stockholder had more than 20 votes.

At a later meeting in March the directors chose one of their number, Robert Temple, Esq., as president. William Page, Esq., registrar of probate, was named cashier of the bank. Plans were made to place the bank in operation



and proposals would be received for the whole building and for the several parts. Those accepted would be those that appeared to be the most advantageous.

In June, 1825, the directors of the Bank of Rutland received the deed to the building and the land on which it was built. From organization to operation had taken less than five months, a feat that the current age of speed can admire.

The bank is one of the many institutions in our society that often receives much criticism. But consider how difficult life would be without a bank.

share of the capital stock of the bank must be paid into the bank.

The directors also announced their intention to prepare a plan for a banking house by Mar. 29, 1825, after which they would receive proposals for erecting the same until Apr. 10, 1825. The plan would be open for inspection at the office of Robert Temple, the president,

38-2

43-3

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Baseball has been around in one form or another for longer than most people suspect. There is evidence of its existence even in the 18th Century. Before the Civil War a number of teams played on an amateur basis in the northeastern United States. Although baseball activity among the civilian teams was reduced by the Civil War, popularity in the army was to lead to a geographical spread of the game throughout the post-war United States.

There were no leagues and no openly professional teams until George Ellard and Harvey Wright of Cincinnati organized the Red Stockings in 1869. This first professional team was a great success. By the 1870's a loosely connected professional league had been established but it was able to exercise little authority over its members. Gambling and liquor made ballparks far from places of decorum.

In 1876 the professional National League was organized. The League provided a strong discipline for its member teams as well as assigning a trained staff of umpires to the games. Admission prices were standardized at 50 cents.

In 1886 the baseball phenomenon hit Rutland. Scores of the professional games were placed on the front page of the Rutland Herald rather than on the inside sports page. A Rutland Baseball Club was organized and won 13 out of 17 games played with state teams and claimed the championship of Vermont. By the end of the season, interest in the team had risen greatly from modest beginnings. Home games, which were played at the fairgrounds, drew up to 800 spectators. Throughout the season an increasing interest in the game was shown by the ladies.

Members of the 1886 team were H. O. Aiken, Merrill, McManus, Chandler, Vadeboncoeur, Bannan, Dillon, W. Aiken, Joyce, Perrin and Tracy. Among the leaders of the team were Merrill, who had a .346 batting average, and Will Aiken, who batted .321. Bannan, Perrin and Tracy were not from Rutland and returned to their homes as the team disbanded at the end of the season. Vadeboncoeur was to remain in Rutland if he could find employment. Will Aiken returned to Yale College. There were high hopes for a strong Rutland team for the next season.

Even employees of the Howe Scale Company organized teams, one from the sealing room and one from the machine shop. They were to play a match at the fairgrounds on Aug. 7, 1886, at 7 o'clock in the morning.

In 1887 a Rutland Athletic Association, composed of stockholders, hired a manager and ballplayers to form a team. A Northeastern League, which included Rutland, Burlington,



Montpelier, St. Albans and Malone, N.Y., was organized. Perrin and Vadeboncoeur remained from the 1886 team, although Perrin's contract was dropped over fan objection in mid-season. Teams in the league picked up and dropped players quite frequently. Talented players with teams outside the league were often signed by league members after a strong showing against the league team. The Rutland Herald not only covered and reported the games but also carried field notes on the changing personnel and team prospects.

Rutland did well, leading the league for part of the season and then holding second place near the end. In August, 1,500 fans saw the team play and beat the Cuban Giants, a crack colored team, in an exhibition game. Then suddenly the team "went bust" along with Burlington and Montpelier in the Northeastern League. Numerous other teams in New England suffered similar fates.

On August 16, 1887, the directors of the Rutland Athletic Association notified the manager of the team that in view of the disbandment of the Burlington team it did not seem likely that the Rutland team could be maintained for the remainder of the season without a further call upon the supporters of the club for funds. Efforts to raise \$500 to guarantee salaries to Oct. 1 were only partially successful. Proceeds from the Cuban Giants game, combined with the other funds, covered salaries until Sept. 1.

At this point the players were called together. They were informed that if the team was to continue the players must agree to do so on a cooperative plan and take receipts as they came in. The players declined and the directors announced on Sept. 5 that the 1887 Rutland team would disband. That team included Daley, Harmon, Fagan, Corcoran, Carrigan, Say, Madigan, Davis, Vadeboncoeur, Perrin, Hanrahan and Kettridge.

In 1887, baseball in Rutland had reached a fever point of interest only to succumb to the financial realities of the time. But local sports talent and interest would not die forever. Another day would come.

Most all people have good intentions — the main trouble seems to come in steering.

38-2

43-3

Bicentennial Perspective — 102

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

On April 6, 1835, the Rutland Herald printed a poem entitled "A Hundred Years Hence." The centennial of the poem has passed but many of the unknown author's optimistic (or tongue-in-cheek) perceptions are topics of concern today. The author closes with the ultimate question in life, a question quite appropriate to the Easter season.



A HUNDRED YEARS HENCE

A hundred years hence
What a change will be made
In politics, morals,
Religion and trade —
In statesmen who wrangle,
Or ride on the fence —
How things will be altered
A hundred years hence!

The heads of the ladies
Such changes may find —
We do not speak now
Of mutations of mind —
From three bushels bonnets
To snug little hats —
The scoops, Navarinos,
The gypsies, and flats.

With furs and with ribbands,
With feathers and flowers,
Some fashioned by artists
Some pluck'd from the bow're
But heads will be changed, too
In science and sense,
Before we have numbered
A hundred years hence.

Our laws will be then
Uncompulsory rules —
Our prisons be changed
Into national schools.

The pleasures of vice
Are a silly pretence —
And the people will know it
A hundred years hence.

All vice will be seen,
When the people awake,
To rise out of folly —
Tis all a mistake!
The lawyers and doctors,
And ministers too,
Will have, I am thinking,
But little to do.

Their careful attention
They then may bestow
On raising potatoes
Or turnips, you know —
Or any employment
They choose to commence,
For arts will be many
A hundred years hence.

And you and I, reader —
Where shall we be found
Can anyone tell,
When time will come round?
In transports of pleasure,
Or sorrows intense?
We'll know more about it
A hundred years hence.

Bicentennial Perspective — 104

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

This week daylight saving time goes into effect in Rutland and throughout the United States. The idea of adjusting the time of human activity to the seasons of the sun had its birth in England prior to World War I. When the United States entered World War I the U.S. Congress passed a daylight saving time law which went into effect on the last Sunday of March in 1918. It ran until the last Sunday in October as a measure to aid the war effort. In World War II daylight saving time was again used as a war measure.



Editorially the Rutland Herald observed that Rutland citizens during the last week of March, 1918, were a little puzzled as to how the city and the country would "lose an hour." The next week the Herald carried the following observation from the Bradford Opinion:

If You're Fooled, You're Foolish
— We are all going to fool ourselves by getting up an hour earlier after Easter Sunday. The simple device of setting clocks ahead an hour to sort of keep up with the sun is going

night worker reported for work at 6 p.m. which was only 5 p.m. by sun time. Thus he lost one hour of his afternoon daylight free time.

Others saw benefits. A number of golf fiends in Rutland reckoned that daylight saving time was "just one hour more on the links."

At the end of the first year of daylight saving time in Rutland and the United States it was declared a distinct success. However, the Rutland Herald in editorializing on the return of the hour lost in the spring noted that "an hour gained on Sunday hardly counts, anyway."

There is no war today but daylight saving time is back as it has been

Rutland:

Bicentennial Perspective — 105

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In Rutland in 1917 the use of electricity was growing and the centralization of its supply was encouraged by the local power and light company. The following advertisement told the story:



This is the time to get rid of your power plant. We are going through a period when metals such as iron and copper have risen remarkably in value.

Owners of private plants (steam, gasoline or electric) ought to find this an advantageous moment to dispose of their plants at exceptionally high prices, utilizing the space for other purposes.

Central Station Service has improved in quantity but has not increased in cost. In fact, its cost has decreased and in accordance with the policy of this company, it will probably continue to decrease.

It should prove an immediate as well as an eventual financial gain, to dispense with a privately-operated plant and install economical, reliable Central Station Service Now.

Rutland Ry. Light & Power Co.

26-28 Center St.

Phone 650.

Today power companies encourage the conservation of electrical energy and many people talk of the decentralization and diffusion of the sources of electrical energy. Some even suggest the development of private power sources. In sixty years a perspective on the supply of electrical energy has come full circle. Times do change but sometimes right back to where they started.

Bicentennial Perspective — 103

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

By 1825 a canal-building craze was sweeping America. The economic impact of New York's Erie Canal had convinced some citizens in nearly every community that had a river or lake nearby, that their future lay in the development of a canal system that would provide cheap transportation and easy access to the sea. Rutland was by no means immune to the excitement.



On Nov. 17, 1825, the Otter Creek and Castleton River Canal Company was incorporated to "maintain a canal or railways, or improve the navigation of Castleton River and Otter Creek, by canals, railways, or other streams from the village of Middlebury to the village of Wallingford, from the creek in Rutland to the East Bay, or to the line of the State of New York, to intersect a canal such as may be branched out from the northern canal in the State of New York to the east line of the said State."

The stockholders in this venture were Eliakim Johnson, Moseley Hall, Henry Hodges, Frederick Button, Moses Strong, Francis Slason, Thomas Hammond, Sturgis Penfield, John Conant, Henry Oliver, A. W. Broughton, Aaron Barrows, Harvey Deming, Ira

Stewart, Jonathan Hagar, John Meacham, James Arms, Reuben Moulton, Elisha Parkhill, John P. Colburn and Jacob Davy. Many of these men were from Rutland.

As early as the late 18th Century, Rutland's Nathaniel Chipman, U. S. senator from Vermont, had proposed the value of a canal from Lake Champlain to the Hudson River. With the completion of such a canal in 1823, a link to Rutland became all the more attractive. But the canal never came to fruition.

Rutland has seen numerous capital projects succeed and others fail. The "might have been" or the "dream" has been an important element of life in Rutland. To ignore it is to ignore a powerful stimulant of American progress. America is a land of dreams, both those that succeed and those that fail.

Rutland: 1740 - 1813

Bicentennial Perspective—106

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

During the week of May 15 the spire of the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ will be lighted as a tribute to the memory of Colonel James Claghorn who was an American Revolutionary patriot, one of the first selectmen of Rutland, and the first parish clerk of the East Parish.



James Claghorn was born July 30, 1739, in Kingston, Mass. He married Ann Hutchinson on April 29, 1762. During their marriage they had eight children, five girls and three boys. The Claghorns lived in Salisbury, Conn., where all but two of the children were born, before they came to Vermont. Their first home in Vermont was in Middlebury where James had obtained an original grant of land. Sometime between 1771 and 1774 the family moved to Rutland.

As a young man during the French and Indian Wars, James Claghorn served in the Fourth Company of the Third Connecticut Regiment in 1756 and in the Eighth Company of Colonel Lyman's Regiment in 1757. He also served two enlistments in Captain Stevens' Company in 1757.

On May 10, 1775, after he had moved to Rutland, James Claghorn joined Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys in the attack on Fort Ticonderoga. He was also at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777. Tradition has it that he received seven bullet holes in his hat that day. On April 30, 1778, he was appointed a Commissioner for the Sale of Confiscated Tory Estates. During the Revolution he rose in rank from his appointment as a second lieutenant at the Dorset meeting on July 25, 1775, to the rank of full colonel in 1782.

Colonel Claghorn was not only deeply involved in the American Revolution but at the same time was very busy with the duties of a town selectman. In 1780 he also found time to join with three other Rutlanders, Joseph Bowker, John Smith and Henry Strong, to build a sawmill on Moon Brook.

Colonel Claghorn came from a family with a tradition of military and public service. That legacy was passed on through many members who added their own contributions. It is only fitting that the family should honor one of the contributors to the legacy.

Memorial Day will arrive soon and wreaths and flowers will be placed on the graves of most of the loyal patriots of the Revolution. But in all too many cases these will be little more than an annual token.

There is a need for something more than a token memorial, something that carries well beyond the bicentennial year and the annual Memorial Day. Too often the patriots of yesteryear are seen only as memories and shadows of the real people they were. A bicentennial perspective should be a perspective on living. Certainly the men and women that are commemorated were truly alive. The present task is to bring our memories to an awareness of that quality of life.

Bicentennial Perspective—107

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Rutland's current controversy with the U.S. Postal Service is not a unique occurrence. In 1828 Gen. Andrew Jackson was elected President of the U.S. On March 9, 1829, he appointed William Taylor Barry, a Jackson supporter from Kentucky, as his postmaster general.



Darry instituted changes in the department that curtailed mail routes in the southern and central sections of Vermont as a "matter of economy." The Woodstock mountain route was reduced from a tri-weekly mail coach route to a weekly horseback route. The great eastern route, to and from Boston, was reduced from a daily route to a tri-weekly route. The southern route, to and from Bennington and Albany, also ceased to be a daily route.

On Dec. 29, 1834, the Rutland Herald noted with obvious pleasure that the Woodstock route had been restored as a semi-weekly post coach route and that the great eastern route, to and from Boston, had been restored as a daily route. The Herald expressed the gratefulness of the citizens of the Rutland area for the favors shown by Major Barry. Only the restoration of the southern route, to and from Bennington and Albany, was left to be restored as a daily route. The Herald assured Major Barry that the public interest required it. The Herald further noted that the policy of curtailing mail routes in the southern and central sections of the state, as a matter of economy, would result in bad economy. The receipts of the offices in the area would fall as much short of former fiscal quarters as the savings in curtailing the contracts amounted to, if not more. The Herald offered to analyze the facts in the case if it could have access to the amount of

receipts for the quarters concerned.

During 1834 and 1835 the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate investigated the Post Office Department. Barry was charged "with favoritism in making contracts for carrying the mails, with increasing payments to contractors far beyond the published schedules, with sweeping dismissals from office, with illegally borrowing money, and with general looseness in his bookkeeping."

Barry was successful in defending himself against the charges that in any way reflected on his honesty or "represented any radical departures from the established customs of the Department." He claimed that partisan politics was at the root of the controversy and that it was not only aimed at himself but also at Gen. Jackson. Although cleared, Barry resigned in April, 1835, and died the same year.

The story of the controversy over postal service curtailment as a "matter of economy" in 1834 bears many parallels to the current controversy over postal service changes for the sake of "economy." However, the parallels of an historical situation do not irrefutably dictate a parallel historical solution. They only provide a perspective from which contemporary man must weave his own web.

43-3

Bicentennial Perspective — 108

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The widespread and excessive use of alcohol by most segments of American society has made the use and abuse of alcohol a topic of concern in every community in America. Rutland has been no exception.

In 1835 a similar concern was present in the country and in Rutland. Temperance organizations were one of the proposed solutions and in Rutland County a temperance convention attempted to cope with the problem.

Although temperance literature in 1835 tended to be sensational and on occasion seemed to overstate the problem, it should not be inferred that the problem was manufactured in the minds of temperance enthusiasts. The story of a local drunkard was portrayed in a letter published by the Rutland Herald on March 30, 1835. The tale might have been discounted except for its purported witnesses. It also might have been enjoyed for its humorous side were it not so tragic.



"It is often the case," the letter began, "that facts, related by the friends of temperance, or, that are published in temperance papers, to show the powers of appetite over the intemperate, are doubted by opposers of the temperance reformation; and are said by them to have been got up for effect, and are not to be credited. But an instance recently occurred in our own town, to which several respectable individuals were witnesses — an instance that goes far to prove the potency of the drunkard's appetite; and that all he

hath, even to his 'eye teeth' will be bartered for a dram.

"A man (man!) entered one of our stores, a few days since, and showing his 'ivory,' inquired of the young merchant, what he would give for his fore teeth. 'Six pence a piece, if sound,' was the reply. The fellow left the shop, but soon after returned, bloody-mouthed; and presenting one of his front teeth to the merchant — which, under the plea of a 'toothache,' he had actually had extracted — demanded the offered premium. The money was paid, and in five minutes ceased for the public good, for its worth in rum, which the fellow drank off with a keen appetite."

The human tragedy of a s such as this often remains hi its humor. How often covers the trag

"The rapid growth of Rutland, and the continued increase of its wealth and population for the past fifteen years has been a matter of great wonder to those who had been taught to think that an interior New England town could never raise itself above the dignity and importance of a quiet rural village and who imagined that all the larger villages in Vermont had arrived to the full height of their glory years ago. And that this class of people should be a numerous one is not surprising when we call to our recollections the long years when our oldest country villages did stand from generation to generation, each the type of the other, as living evidences of the apparent fact that the air and soil of Vermont was not congenial to the growth of large towns.

"But the introduction of railroads into the State at once put a new face upon this condition of things, and when the roar of the cars awoke the echoes of our hitherto quiet hills and valleys, it at the same time seemed to arouse the latent energies of the people; new avenues to trade were opened, fresh incitements to business given, and as a ready market was now to be found for all the products of the country, the old 'slow coach' system of trade was done away with, a new era dawned upon the land, and it was soon found that there might be vitality even in an old Vermont village; and consequently many of our staid old places that had dozed on for years in a state of blissful quietude, awoke to a sense of the new state of things, and started off with a fresh impulse in the race of improvement. Of these towns in Vermont which have thus been, as it were, born into a new life, Rutland stands among the first, and indeed we may say, at the head. There is probably no town in the State which has within the past few years added as much to its wealth, population, business, and all that goes to give a town character, influence and power as has Rutland. From a population in 1850 of about 3,800 she has today not less than 10,000. From a vote ranging, but a few years back, from 450 to 500, she in her last election gave 1435, and it may with truth be said that the actual increase in her business has been yet far more wonderful. We use the word wonderful here as we are not speaking of the almost magic growth of a newly born city in the West, but of the second life of an old and time honored, though a long sleeping New England village, which it was supposed had reached the height of its glory almost a half century ago.

"But the more important question for consideration now is as to whether Rutland shall continue to increase as it has for the past few years, or indeed whether it can be held staid and steadfast where it is. These are questions often asked and as often answered, wisely or unwisely, in accordance with the hope, fear or belief of the questioned party. Now it is quite certain that no one can answer this question with any degree of certainty as this whole matter depends, in a very great measure, on the future action of the businessmen of Rutland themselves. It is true that the mere growth of the town has thus far been apparently as vigorous and healthy as it has been rapid. Very few places can be found where every branch of business has been better sustained, where fewer failures have occurred or where the credit of businessmen stands higher than in Rutland of the past few years; and yet, this in itself will not secure its future advancement, or even stability, nor will it do to risk the continued and permanent well-being of the place to the encouragement, merely, of the business enterprise within its own limits. This is all very well as far as it goes, but it seems but a short way to go towards making Rutland what, with its capabilities, it should be. There are few interior towns in this country which have arrived at any

employees about 11:55 p.m. and jacket approached the "He knew what he was doing," a police officer remarked.

After taking the receipts, the gunman told the employees to walk away and then fled.

According to police, the thief was about 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighed approximately 180 pounds. The incident was under investigation Monday.

"If he feels strongly about the matter," she said.

determine his true feelings Tuesday with Brown is to 250 hearing. Her meeting the decision not to hold an Act concerning the commission's having second thoughts con- local rumors said she has heard Corliss said she has heard reached for comment.

Snyder could not be reached for comment.

tourist attraction.

Valley Railroad Corp., which will operate the president of the Otter

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

"A quarter of a century ago and earlier the home was the haven to which all hastened after the day's work and there remained until the morning. Then the 'family circle' was more than a beautiful legend and it was around the home fireside that the kith and kin and sister's beau gathered for entertainment par excellence.

"And then along came the 'movie,' the automobile, the dance hall and the other 'infernal contraptions of science' to disband the component members of the home circle and to cast an evening spell of dark desolation and somber silence over man's castle.

The modern home, one was told, became a place in which to remain as briefly as possible and fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters became strangers to each other.

"Now science promises to undo its evil work and restore the home and

family circle as of yore. Radios are making stay-at-homes of those of whom the automobile and 'movie' made gad-about. Now science, so the scientists say, is coming to the succor of the home with radio motion pictures and television.

"There has been so much going on away from home of late years that even the papas and the mamas have feared to remain at home lest they miss something. The future promises to bring so many things into the home that one will loath to leave it."

Hindsight and foresight certainly provide greatly different perspectives on life.

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Local investment often has a geographic scope that is much broader than commonly assumed. The Rutland and Reese River Mining Co. of 1867 was an excellent example of the broad scope of the community's investment activity.

In Nevada after the Civil War much excitement was generated by silver finds, both new and old. Early in 1867 the Rutland and Reese River Mining Co. was created under a special charter from the state of Vermont to work silver mines in the Reese River District and-or other places in the state of Nevada.

The nine directors of the company included six Rutland men. All the officers were from Rutland. Z. V. K. Willson was president, J. M. Haven was treasurer and C. D. Brown was clerk.

The company was capitalized at \$50,000, half of which was offered for sale as a working capital. W.G. Blakely of Austin, Nev., who was a

practical miner, managed the affairs of the company in Nevada. He was the only Nevada director.

A notice of the company's founding and election of officers led the "Rutland Independent" to comment: "From a personal acquaintance with most of the . . . members of the board, we have no doubt that their business will be conducted 'on the square'."

It was a long way from Rutland to the Nevada silver mines but Rutland investment interests were ready to make that transcontinental leap in 1867.

City Population Change

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

A current controversy over the estimated population of Rutland has led to varying interpretations of the meaning of the figures in terms of growth. Although population is only one of numerous factors that must be considered in a general analysis and interpretation of a community's growth, it is an obvious and popular indicator of that growth.

From 1770, when Col. James Mead and his family arrived in Rutland, until today, the population of Rutland has shown periods of rapid growth, stabilization, and even some small decline. And always commerce, industry and community wealth have been the less obvious, but perhaps more important, keys to a true growth analysis.

In 1771 an early surveyor's map showed at least a dozen homesteads in Rutland. An estimate in 1773 placed the population at 35 families and in 1774 at 60 to 70 families. The first official census was taken in 1791. It counted 1407 people in Rutland. By 1800 the census indicated a growth of more than 50 per cent to a population of 2,125. From a population of 2,379 in 1810 to 2,369 in 1820, Rutland showed a slight decline followed by a slight increase to a population of 2,753 in 1830 which again decreased to 2,708 in 1840.

The arrival of the railroad in Rutland in 1850 began a rapid growth pattern. The 1850 population was 3,713. By 1860 it had more than doubled to 7,577 and Rutland was the second most populous community in Vermont with a population that was only 200 less than that of Burlington.

After 1860 the population of Rutland continued to grow rapidly. In 1870 it was 9,824. By 1880 it was 12,149 and Rutland was clearly the most populous community in Vermont.

In 1890 Rutland showed a population decline to 11,760 because in 1886 West Rutland (with 3,680 people in 1890) and Proctor (with 1,758 people in 1890) were set off as separate towns. Considering the original municipal area, Rutland

still had the largest population in Vermont.

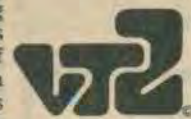
In 1892 Rutland City was chartered as an entity separate from the Town of Rutland. In 1900 the new city had a population of 11,499. Proctor meanwhile grew to a population of 2,136 but the population of West Rutland declined to 2,914 and the remaining Town of Rutland had a population of 1,109.

In 1910 the city continued its growth to 13,546 people and Proctor grew to 2,871 people. Rutland Town grew to 1,311 people but West Rutland continued to decline to 2,427 people. The combined population of the area of the old town of Rutland was 20,155.

From 1910 to 1920 Rutland City grew to a population of 14,954. Between 1930 and 1950 the city population stabilized at 17,000 people with a variation of only a few hundred people. The town had a slight growth to a population of 1,416 in 1950. West Rutland declined from a population of 3,421 in 1930 to 2,487 in 1950. Proctor also declined to a population of 1,917 in 1950.

Since 1950, Rutland City has added about 1,000 people to its population each decade to achieve a population of slightly over 19,000 people in the 1970 census. The town has grown from a population of 1,542 in 1960 to 2,248 in 1970. Meanwhile the populations of West Rutland and Proctor have nearly stabilized.

Patterns of growth and decline are only part of a perspective on the past. Yet, although they do not explain the causes, they do delineate the outlines of development and the outlines form the foundation for further understanding.



Similar Subjects

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

So often it seems that 20th Century community problems and their potential solutions are quite unique, different from those of the 19th Century. Yet such is seldom the truth. An editorial note from the "Rutland Herald" of April 26, 1836, illustrates this with such an amazing similarity that it could have been written today.

"Village Interests — The citizens of Middlebury have had a meeting for the purpose of taking measures to promote the interests of that town and village. Resolutions were adopted expressing much uneasiness at the extensive emigration of the young and enterprising citizens and its bad effects upon the prosperity of the country. A large committee was appointed to inquire into and report at an adjourned meeting what means ought to be adopted to secure the introduction of manufactures of various descriptions, not already introduced, and to promote the extension of those in operation.

"Another committee was appointed to correspond with capitalists in various sections of the country relative to the advantages possessed for the prosecution of the manufacturing interest — and also a committee to prepare and publish a statement of the facilities possessed for the prosecution of mechanical, manufacturing, and other pursuits."

The "Rutland Herald" lauded the effort in Middlebury and strongly suggested that "the village and town of Rutland and other places ought to go and do likewise, at least where such interests are neglected, or our state will be literally deserted in many places."



Bicentennial Perspective — 114

Baseball: 1867 View

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Today's negative commentary on the bad behavior associated with sports is not unique. In September, 1867, the "Rutland Independent" noted that many writers felt that the new sport of baseball did not provide a healthy environment for American youth. However, the editor of the "Independent" reported that he had the pleasure of personally witnessing a game in which none of the above objections was in the least present.

On Sept. 4, 1867, the "Unknowns" of Rutland travelled to Poultney to play the "alerts" of Poultney for possession of the prize bat of the First Congressional District. The Poultney team had won the bat from the "Unknowns" in Rutland a few weeks earlier. The editor of the "Independent" described the game as the "most exciting" baseball game which had yet taken place in the area. The "Unknowns" won the game by a score of 44-19 before 2,000 spectators.

The editor of the "Independent" commented that during the game he "did not hear a profane word uttered; there was no wrangling or disputes, no calling in question the umpire, and the victors and vanquished alike, impressed all with their manly, and we may say gentlemanly deportment."

At the conclusion of the game a fine meal was provided the Rutland team by George E. Graves and Harrison Prindle of Rutland. The ladies of Poultney presented the team with a beautiful wreath attached to the prize bat which was triumphantly brought home to Rutland. Livery transportation to Fair Haven was provided by John W. Cramton of Rutland.

Although it was only a single ball game, it did provide an ideal of behavior that might well be considered today.



Humor Is About Same



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The people of the present are often unaware that the people of the past frequently had a humorous perspective on the trials and tribulations of life. The "Rutland Independent" of April 11, 1868, not only reminds us of a way of transportation that disappeared many years ago but of a humor that can still be enjoyed.

"Old Stage Times — Some twenty-five years ago when passengers were carried in and on stage coaches, when our little sheriff drove his six-in-hand, as pert as a banty rooster, and his big brother drove his eight-in-hand, and could blow his bugle at the same time, I was a passenger in the stage from Rutland to Middlebury. In those days taverns kept liquid nourishment for travellers and those who wished to imbibe could do so at every stopping place. Among the outside passengers there was one who availed himself of these opportunities, and by the time we got a few miles north of Salisbury he was somewhat top-heavy. The wheels of the coach going into a rut on one side caused the coach to lurch suddenly, so that our passenger with the brick in his hat, fell to the ground. The stage stopped, the man got up, commenced to brush his clothes, and asked the driver: 'Is anybody hurt? How did it happen?'

"Driver: 'How did what happen?'

"Passenger: 'Why, the stage to tip over.'

"D: 'The stage didn't tip over.'

"P: 'That's a likely story. You can't fool me in that way, old fellow.'

"D: 'Well, ask the passengers.'

"P (to passengers): 'Didn't this stage tip over?'

"Passengers: 'No.'

"P (crawling back onto the seat): 'Well, if I'd known that I wouldn't have got off.'"

Numerous things affect a person's perspective. And perspectives contribute greatly to a person's behavior.

Importance of Preserving Private Papers

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Maj. William Fay, the second editor of the Rutland Herald, died on July 31, 1840. During many of the years that he edited and published the Herald he also operated a bookstore and a bookbindery on the west side of South Main Street.

In the summer of 1844 many old books, pamphlets and papers were removed from the old bookbindery, piled on the green in front of the building and burned. A few documents, such as a letter signed by George Washington and another signed by Thomas Jefferson, were removed by one of the apprentices and later deposited in the Vermont Antiquarian Society. Undoubtedly many other valuable papers were destroyed as they were the long time accumulation of private and public papers which came into the possession of Maj. Fay through his predecessors in the ownership of the Herald.

Even today many potentially valuable papers, letters, pictures and other materials are innocently and unfortunately burned or otherwise destroyed before an historian or an archivist has had an opportunity to consider their value.

Although Rutland people have saved much evidence of their past, a great amount has been lost or destroyed. Unfortunately the historian can only provide a perspective on the past to the degree that the materials that give evidence of that past remain and are accessible.

Courage In Crisis



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Two hundred years ago, in the latter days of July, Rutland was a nearly abandoned community. Gen. John Burgoyne's British forces and German troops under the command of Gen. Friedrich von Reidesel had occupied Castleton, and their Tory allies controlled the countryside. Rebellious inhabitants of the area were offered protection papers if they would come to Castleton to take a loyalty oath.

On July 9, 1777, two days after the Battle of Hubbardton, Gen. Arthur St. Clair, commander of the American forces, informed Jonas Fay, Vermont secretary of state, that he thought that there was little danger for the inhabitants of Rutland. However, most Rutland people moved south ahead of Burgoyne's advance. As the Americans left Rutland they burned Fort Rutland, which was located at the present northeast corner of Terrill and Main Streets.

It is not certain that the forces of Gen. Reidesel entered Rutland although a letter to Meshech Weare of New Hampshire, dated July 21, 1777, indicated that some had passed through and beyond Rutland, undoubtedly on a reconnoiter.

The future of the American Revolutionary movement in Rutland and Vermont, if not throughout the colonies, seemed doomed in those dark days. Yet in mid-August remnants of the Vermont troops, aided by troops from New Hampshire, were able to soundly defeat portions of Burgoyne's army in the Battle of Bennington and finally to join the entrapment and surrender of Burgoyne's whole army at Saratoga, N.Y., in October, 1777, and thereby lift the prospects of the American patriots from the desperate days of July to a more hopeful outlook in October.

In 1778 Rutland was made the Vermont military headquarters and "Fort Ranger" was constructed on a large plateau of land bounded today by the old Center Rutland cemetery on the east, the railroad bridge over Route 4 on the west, Route 4 to the north and Otter Creek on the south. Throughout the rest of the Revolution Rutland was the anchor of the northern defense line. Although there were numerous raids and threats of raids by Tory and Indian raiding parties, Rutland was never again threatened by a force comparable to that of Burgoyne in the summer of 1777. The crisis had been met and overcome.

The true mettle of a community is often found when it faces a crisis. Although most Rutland people retreated in 1777 it was only to fight and win on another day and on another field. Ultimately they returned to Rutland and built the second-largest, and at one time the largest, community in Vermont. A bicentennial perspective should not fail to remind us of this crisis and the faith and courage of those who met it.

7/26/77

43-3

Feeding the Troops

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The problem of acquiring food for the army during the American Revolution is often overlooked in bicentennial



reflections. In Vermont that problem reached crisis proportions in the Spring of 1779. In March 1780, the Vermont Legislature forbid the transportation of food outside the state without the permission of the Governor and his Council unless it was for the Continental Army.

The extensive recruitment of militiamen in Vermont in the summer of 1777 to oppose the advance of the British forces of General John Burgoyne at the same time decimated the ranks of active farmers. In addition numerous crops in northern Vermont were destroyed rather than let them fall into the hands of the enemy. As a result, frequent requests were made to General George Washington and the Continental Congress to provide Continental troops to defend the northern frontiers after the defeat of Burgoyne. Unless the militiaman farmer could return to his crops, there would be a food shortage and Vermont would succumb to the force of famine.

Help never came and Vermont had to defend its own borders with its own men and hope that the few citizens who were not on active duty could provide sufficient food.

Thanks to shrewd negotiations with the British (the Haldimand Negotiations) an unofficial truce provided some relief to the military forces. In November, 1780, food quotas were assigned to the various towns. This was in addition to the previous militia quotas. Money was not accepted because it would buy little and it was subject to extreme inflation. Yet with all these problems, the Vermont militia successfully held the field during the rest of the American Revolution.

This week the Stark Military Expedition came to Rutland on its way to the re-enactment of the Battle of Bennington. Rutland people successfully met the challenge to "feed the troops" as they did in 1777.

Those involved with the task of feeding the troops in 1777 obtained a very personal bicentennial perspective on a very ordinary subject — food. The successful support of the 1777 troops by the community was an inspiring reminder of the importance of the same support in 1777.

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON
Bicentennial Perspective — 118

The old adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words" is even more applicable when that picture is a three dimensional representation. Museums, restorations of artifacts, and re-enactments of historical events and life are particularly appealing forms in which to consider the American bicentennial nostalgia and concern for the past.

In Rutland the Rutland Historical Society's pictorial history book and next week's Muster Day activities typify the value of the picture and the re-enactment. Such activities have the potential of generating a deep intellectual and emotional understanding of the local past and thus establishing a really functional relationship between the past and the present.

Man can no more live in the present and ignore the past that has fathered the present, then he can live in the past and ignore his present condition. For all our aura of independence we are still children of our fathers. This we must truly seek to understand if we wish to understand ourselves.

Museum trips, re-enactments, and historical pictures can, and should, be much more than a pleasant day of nostalgia. The knowledge to be found has a vital relationship to our humanity. The bicentennial is simply a time to emphasize a historic concern that should provide a perspective on our whole life.



Who Actually Did The Fighting At Bennington's Battle?



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Today marks 200 years since the Battle of Bennington. Although the battle took place near Bennington, it involved people from all parts of Vermont. It was a battle that would do much to determine the future of Vermont itself.

The flight of the American army from Fort Ticonderoga and the subsequent retreat from Hubbardton had left the countryside in near despair and pain. Most Rutland people had fled south with their families, some to Bennington and others to Massachusetts and Connecticut. Some militia men then returned to Vermont to fight. A few families took "protection papers" from the British rather than flee. Then there were a few defections to the British side by families who were either weak in "patriotic principles" or just plain believed that the time had come to join the "winner."

There are many reasons to believe that the Vermont militia was committed to Vermont first and perhaps only. There certainly were thoughts that if the Continental forces of the United States of America were going to abandon Vermont then perhaps Vermont's future lay in making peace as an independent province of Great Britain. A return of Col. Seth Warner's Continental Regiment on Aug. 3, 1777, at Manchester, seemed to bear out this contention. He could only muster 157 officers and men. Since his last weekly return, 10 men had deserted and 56 were missing. Some of the loss could be explained by the frantic retreat from Hubbardton but it also seemed to reflect questions regarding Vermont's future.

The disorganized condition of the countryside makes it difficult to tell who from Rutland was at the Battle of Bennington. It is quite certain that Benjamin Whipple Jr., John Smith, Sylvanus Brown, John Forbes, Stephen Williams, Noah Beach, Jared Post and William Post were in the battle, as they are named in Capt. Samuel Robinson's roll on Aug. 16 with the notation that they were in the battle. There is a reference that Dr. Jacob Rubach served at the battle. Ensign Samuel Beach and Pvt. John Whitley were regular members of Col. Warner's Regiment both before and after the battle and were probably present.

Col. Thomas Lee's Independent Company of Rangers in the Service of the United States of America was attached to Col. Warner's Regiment. Probably he and his Rutland men were present at the battle. In addition to Col. Lee this company included First Lt. Isaac Martin, Sgt. Ephraim Loomis and Privates Alexander Barr, Clement Clark, Thomas Latham, Gershom Olds, Reuben Post, Curtis Smith and John Hagdon from Rutland.

Family and other traditions place Col. James Claghorn, Capt. John Smith and his son Daniel, Gideon Walker and Abner Blanchard among the Rutland people at the battle. Records of persons in the battle are incomplete due to the conditions of the time and traditions have muddled the evidence. Nonetheless, it is certain that Rutland contributed numerous men to the battle as did many other towns. Thus the Battle of Bennington was truly a battle fought for Vermont by a cross-section of Vermonters.

Although fought on what is now New York soil and with the help of men from other states, the battle was crucial to Vermont's continued participation in the Revolutionary cause. A failure at Bennington might have led Vermont to become a part of the British Empire and not the 14th state of the United States of America.

The significance of Rutland participation in the battle and the significance of the battle for all of Vermont should be remembered on this its 200th anniversary.

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Who Got The Grants?



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the 18th Century land in America was plentiful and cheap. However, even 200 years ago there were land speculators who obtained tracts of land with the thought of future sale or development for profit.

The original 64 proprietors of Rutland apparently were a speculative group as there is no evidence that any of them ever settled in Rutland. For 17 of the original proprietors, the grant of a right of land in Rutland was their only venture into proprietorship in a land grant in Vermont or New Hampshire. Three of these proprietors were widows who received the proprietor's right in their own name, a rare occurrence for the 18th Century. Two of the widows had been captured by Indians, taken to Canada and later ransomed, events that were also out of the ordinary.

Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire, who made the grant of Rutland, included land for himself not only in the grant of Rutland but in nearly every township he granted. Between 1761 and 1764 he made 114 township grants in what is now Vermont, and numerous grants in New Hampshire as well.

Two of his New Hampshire councillors also carried on a practice of including a right for themselves in nearly every grant in whose approval they were involved. Richard Wibird obtained rights in over 25 township grants in New Hampshire and 47 grants, including Rutland, in Vermont. Daniel Warner, another New Hampshire councillor, obtained rights in 15 New Hampshire towns and rights in 47 grants, including Rutland, in Vermont. Col. Clement March, a prominent member of the New Hampshire Legislature, was also a large accumulator of grants. He obtained grants in 12 New Hampshire towns and in 11 Vermont towns. These undoubtedly were connected with his political position in the New Hampshire government of Gov. Wentworth.

Four family groups accounted for 25 of the 64 rights granted in Rutland by Gov. Wentworth. The Arms family had three members who received rights in Rutland. Two of them were among the wealthiest individuals in pre-Revolutionary Deerfield, Mass. During the Revolution they unfortunately sided with the Tories. The Hinsdale family had three members who received rights in Rutland. Col. Ebenezer Hinsdale had been the founder of Hinsdale, N.H. The Stevens family had three members, including the widow Elizabeth, who received Rutland grants. The Stone family had six members who had rights in Rutland. Zedekiah Stone was named as the moderator of the first proprietors' meeting by the charter. The Willard family had the largest number of rights, with 10. The various members of the Willard family had numerous grants in both New Hampshire and Vermont towns in the Connecticut River valley. Col. Josiah Willard Sr. had been the founder of Winchester, N.H. The remaining 19 proprietors of Rutland were small accumulators of town rights in New Hampshire and Vermont.

There were numerous patterns of association among many of the Rutland proprietors in grants of land in New Hampshire and Vermont, both before and after the Rutland grant. Nine Rutland proprietors were proprietors in Chesterfield and six in Winchester in New Hampshire, before the Rutland grant. After the Rutland charter, six were involved in the grant of Acworth and 14 in the grant of Claremont in New Hampshire.

In Vermont, at least six Rutland proprietors were associated in each of the grants in Westminster, Brattleboro, Putney, Plymouth, Reading, Windsor and Hartland, before the Rutland grant. After the Rutland grant 10 proprietors received grants in the township of Barnet.

Although there is little land given away by government today, there are still land speculators and developers who invest in land not for actual use but for the purpose of resale. What may surprise people of the 20th Century is that land speculation is a very old activity.

Opera House



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In 1868 the Messrs. Ripley (William Y. and his sons William Y. W., Edward H., and Charles H.) built the first Rutland Opera House on the west side of Merchants Row. Designed by the architect J. J. R. Randall of Rutland, the building was a magnificent four-story structure. The hall occupied the third and fourth stories of the building, while the ground floor space was occupied by retail stores. The facility offered seating for more than 800 people and a stage 51 feet wide and 22 feet deep. The building was heated by hot air from two coal furnaces in the basement.

Plans were made to dedicate the completed Rutland Opera House on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 29 and 30, 1868. Parepa Rosa, the most celebrated cantatrice of the day, and the Parepa Rosa troupe, which consisted of Brookhouse Bowler, tenor, Ferranti, baritone, Carl Rosa, violinist and husband of Parepa Rosa, George Colby, pianist, and John Levy, king cornet player, were engaged for the opening program at \$1,000 per night. On Dec. 10 they had had a great success in Chicago where the evening's receipts were \$2,600.

Parepa Rosa and her company arrived in Rutland on the 9:10 p.m. train on Monday, Dec. 28, and stayed at the Bardwell House. Reserved seat tickets for the performances went on sale at N.V. Brooks's music store at 11 a.m. on Dec. 23. A total of 134 tickets were sold in the first hour and by 9 p.m. 500 had been sold.

On Tuesday evening the hall was nearly filled long before the hour of commencement. The program opened with a dedication march composed expressly for the occasion by George A. Mietzke of Rutland. A dedication ode, written by Mrs. Julia Ripley Dorr, was read by Henry F. Field, cashier of the First National Bank. Contrary to some popular misconceptions, the musical offerings of Parepa Rosa and company were not strictly operatic. Parepa Rosa offered "The Storm" by Hullah while the members of the troupe offered highly artistic performances of their specialties.

On Wednesday the company offered a different program of sacred music and miscellaneous selections from oratorios performed by Madam Parepa Rosa in New York. Again the program was not entirely operatic. Although ticket sales were good the "Rutland Herald" noted that good seats were still available.

The second concert was as successful as the first. The "Herald" heaped praise on each performer and congratulated the Messrs. Ripley for the high order of entertainment which they had brought to the community. The "Burlington Times" called it a "brilliant affair."

Although there seemed to be a general community admiration for the quality of the performances of the Parepa Rosa troupe, not everyone found them just to their taste. The "Rutland Independent" noted that many comments heard after the concerts indicated that some people preferred other types of music. One person was overheard to say "darn that piano, give me the old fiddle." One "liked the 'Yankee Doodle' but hanging those 'fixins' to it was more than he could bear." Another "had rather hear Clark's minstrels anytime." Others felt the music was truly uplifting to the human spirit. The "Independent" concluded that "the people will have amusements, and if these can be directed to a higher tone... it is certainly something to be desired." Certainly the Messrs. Ripley deserved congratulations for their efforts.

The Rutland Opera House was to see many a fine performance in the future which contributed to raising the cultural appreciation of many Rutland people. But for some the cultural taste never rose above a good minstrel show.

Bicentennial

Perspective — 123

Old Times Are Best (Always)

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

As we celebrate our 200th anniversary we often fail to remember that our past involves a long and complex series of changes. We tend to focus on one point and, at best, perhaps compare it with one other point, usually the present.

In December, 1868, a pair of short verses in the "Rutland Independent," entitled "The Difference," provided some perspective on the changes of nearly the first 100 years in Rutland. Perhaps the reader will find it interesting to provide a verse for 1977 and the second 100 years.

1776

Farmer to the plow,
Wife, milking cow,
Daughter spinning yarn,
Son threshing in the barn
All Happy to a charm.

1868

Farmer gone to see a show,
Daughter at the piano,
Madam gaily dressed in satin,
All the boys learning Latin,
With a mortgage on the farm.

Bicentennial

Perspective — 124

Classic Dunning Letter

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Nearly everyone at sometime has had a problem collecting payment for a credit extended. Collection agencies specialize in dealing with these problems.

In 1868 one local man came up with a rather unique idea. He addressed a letter to a West Rutland man who owed him money. On the outside of the envelope he wrote the following commentary:

"The old man to whom this note is directed owes me \$2.75. This is my third dunning letter to him. I think the 'cuss' don't mean to pay me, but I am a persevering 'critter' and will write him as many more if he don't come down this time. If I had plenty of stamps I would not care a 'chaw tabacker' about it, but I work for a living and don't owe a red cent to anybody, not even my washerwoman. He votes the Democratic ticket, rather characteristic of a Democrat, isn't it?"

Although the creditor had an obvious political bias, his ingenious approach offered an interesting, though questionable, solution to the problem of debt collection. It would be interesting to know if the creditor ever received his \$2.75.

Bicentennial Perspective — 125

The Name Of the Game

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Gambling has had a long history in Rutland. There is evidence of its presence in the community before 1800. A case from the Rutland Police Court in March, 1868, offers an interesting twist to the dangers of gambling.

Several citizens had been gambling in a Rutland billiard saloon. The game had started on a Saturday night and had run into Sunday morning when it broke up as one of the party complained that he had been cheated out of \$300. He threatened to make a complaint to the grand juror. The rest of the party foiled the threat by entering their own complaint. They were each fined from \$5 to \$30, which left a nice little balance from the \$300 for their own pockets.

The problem seems all too familiar but the group's solution to it provides a shrewd, though humorous, perspective on Rutland's past.

Like TV Show

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the first years after the Civil War, Rutland was struck with a rash of fires. Apparently not all were accidental. Their frequency and location were more than coincidental.

In January, 1869, an undercover investigation of the incendiary problem came to premature light in a rather exciting fashion. Detective George W. Whipple from Brooklyn, N.Y., had spent six weeks in Rutland mingling with the "town roughs." As part of his plan he enlisted the aid of Peter Neary to engineer a jail escape for E. S. Piper who had been in the Rutland County jail for two years.

Before securing the arrangements, Whipple asked for some evidence of what Neary had done to merit Whipple's confidence in his criminal abilities. Neary noted that he had helped to burn the Town Hall and other buildings on Main Street. Martin Duffy was also found to be "well-qualified for the business."

But Whipple was not the only schemer. Whipple had shown large amounts of money in his attempts to buy information and confidence. On Thursday night, Jan. 28, 1869, Whipple was led to the Butterfly house on East Street where he was robbed by Neary, Duffy, James, William and Thomas Butterfly and Mary Dushan and others. In the scuffle Detective Whipple's badge was seen. Whipple was able to escape with his life only by a superhuman effort. In the process he received a severe bite on the nose from William Butterfly.

Upon Whipple's escape Neary, Duffy, the three Butterflies and Mary Dushan were arrested and confined in the County Jail in Rutland. On March 12, 1869, Peter Neary, Martin Duffy, William Butterfly, Thomas Dushan, James Butterfly, and Mary Dushan were arraigned on an indictment for arson for setting fire to a barn of Mrs. Huntoon by which the Town Hall and other buildings in Rutland were burned on Dec. 12, 1868. Peter Neary, William Butterfly, Martin Duffy and Thomas Dushan were found guilty of arson. James Butterfly and Mary Dushan were found not guilty due to a lack of evidence.

Detective Whipple's experience had all the earmarks of a television thriller. However, it all happened in Rutland more than 100 years ago when Rutland was a hub of activity, where hotel arrivals numbered 500 to 600 per week.

Bicentennial Perspective — 127

Loyalists Here Had It Rough



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The American loyalists have not been a popular bicentennial topic in the United States. Although the loyalists were loyal to their king for many reasons and sometimes their motives and efforts were superior to those of the "rebels", they had the misfortune to back the losing side.

In Revolutionary Vermont there were relatively few loyalists, or at least few that openly expressed their support for the king. Early in the war Vermont authorities made it clear that loyalism was not an option open to Vermonters. In June, 1777, local committees of safety were directed to confiscate loyalist estates. On July 11, 1777, the Vermont Council of Safety decided to sell confiscated estates to raise money for the

defense of Vermont against General John Burgoyne's invasion.

In Rutland four men had their estates ordered confiscated on April 23, 1778. They were David Shorey, Robert Perry, Ebenezer Washburn and Joshua Bostwick. Shorey and Perry owned a lot of 96 acres in the southeast corner of Rutland which Jonathan Fassett, Commissioner for the Sale of Confiscated Lands, sold to James Claghorn on Oct. 19, 1778, for 460 pounds. The Shorey and Perry property was south of James Bowker's home farm and land held by Gideon Minor. It was bounded on the east by Nathan Tuttle's property, south by the highway and west by the east road from Clarendon to Pittsford. A brown and a red cow were also confiscated from Perry and Shorey by Captain Abel Marsh

and taken to Hartford where they were sold for a total sum of 13 pounds and 4 shillings. A cart which had belonged to Perry and Shorey was sold to Captain Jonathan Fassett for six pounds and 18 shillings on Feb. 10, 1778. In September, 1778, James Bowker paid Daniel Washburn two pounds for boarding the family of Robert Perry for five weeks. He also paid Gideon Cooley one pound and one shilling for boarding and transporting the families of Perry and Shorey to Lake Champlain. Accounts totalling six pounds and 12 shillings were allowed against the estate of Robert Perry. Accounts totalling 29 pounds and 15 shillings were allowed against the estate of David Shorey.

Joshua Bostwick had a farm of 170 acres which was purchased from James Claghorn, Commissioner for the Sale of Confiscated Lands, by Reuben Harmon for 400 pounds on Jan. 5, 1779. The purchase sum was equal to 296 Continental dollars on the inflationary scale of the Revolution. The Bostwick farm was bounded on the north by lands laid out by Nathan Tuttle and lands belonging to John Andrews, on the west by the Great Road or highway that led from Clarendon to Pittsford, south on Dr. Roebuck's land and east on the 15 Right Line.

As Harmon proceeded to establish his claim however, it became apparent that Bostwick had had no deed to the land. The land which was in the right of Samuel Stone, an original proprietor, had passed through numerous transactions, a number of which were not recorded. The ownership of the land was finally determined to lie in the hands of Samuel Durwin, Jr., of Lanesborough, Massachusetts. Finally in 1810 the Vermont State Legislature granted Oliver Harmon, son of Reuben, \$349.28 in com-

pensation for the title that failed. Accounts amounting to 46 pounds, 19 shillings and eight pence were allowed against the estate of Joshua Bostwick. Among these was an account of Arthur Bostwick for six shillings and eight pence for bringing Joshua Bostwick's wife from Castleton to Manchester. There were also charges for caring for her for six months at 24 shillings per month and 30 pounds for extraordinary charges at her lying in.

Although the estate of Ebenezer Washburn was condemned to confiscation, its confiscation record is missing. James Claghorn, Commissioner for the Sale of Confiscated Lands, did pay Ebenezer Wheelock \$258 on June 16, 1780, for two days travel from Springfield, Vt., to Keene, N.H., to make a search for a deed and writings belonging to Ebenezer Washburn which Claghorn suspected were in the custody of Washburn's mother. This included \$40 paid to a Dr. Frink for evidence received by Wheelock.

After the Revolution, Perry, Shorey and Washburn all filed claims with the British Commissioners for losses of their estates in Vermont. Bostwick apparently did not file for he had no valid deed to his land.

Rutland's loyalists were few in number. Their decision to remain loyal to the king certainly was not a popular one. In addition, at least three of them were faced with leaving families and estates behind although it was a common practice to forward loyalist families to the Lake from whence they could be transported to Canada. Little is known of the personal drama of their decision to remain loyal. Unpopular as it was, it seems to have been an exceptionally courageous decision.

43-3



Before — And Beyond

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

One of the limitations of bicentennial celebrations and writing is the unstated assumption that 200 years contains the sum and substance of our history. In Vermont, and in Rutland in particular, this tends to be accurate as far as it pertains to whites of European ancestry, but it ignores the habitations of the American In-

dian in Vermont before white colonization. Upon this subject there is scholarly disagreement which is currently a topic of legal contention in the claims of the Abnaki Indians.

This weekend an "Ancient Vermont Conference" at Castleton State College will consider moving the date of European man in Vermont back more than

2,000 years. The presence of Celtic peoples in Vermont is postulated on the discovery of reputed ancient inscriptions on rocks. This "ogham", as it is called, and the presence of unmortared, but apparently man-made, stone huts have provided an archeological springboard for consideration of an early Vermont culture which may not only broaden present geographic and cultural perspectives but initiate a totally new perspective on America. Though the results of such a conference might seem to be of restricted scholarly interest, the potential impact of the investigation has an international scope.

Immediate concerns center on attempts to stimulate interest in the legal protection and more thorough investigation of the evidence of ancient Vermont. Whether history or hoax, the ancient settlement of Vermont by Celtic peoples from Europe opens far more than a bicentennial horizon.

As we know more of the past we discover that we truly know less proportionately. Strangely that is one of the legacies of a bicentennial perspective.

Obtaining The Facts



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

One of the facts of an historical perspective on Rutland is that there are some things that are unknown and perhaps will remain unknown. Frequently there is evidence of the past that is incomplete or insufficient to reconstruct what happened.

Rutland was granted in 1763 by Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire to a group of 64 proprietors, none of whom appear to have ever settled in Rutland. There are scattered minutes of meetings of the proprietors who bought their proprietorships from the original proprietors or intermediaries and settled in early Rutland. However, these minutes do not go back before 1773 and are very incomplete. Either the proprietors held very few meetings or the records are not available. The explanation is not known.

There is evidence and some general agreement that Col. James Mead and his family were the first permanent white settlers in Rutland. However, there are claims that John W. Sutherland, who had a mill at Sutherland's Falls which is now Proctor, was in Rutland before the Mead family.

Town meetings were first recorded in 1780. However, there were selectmen in 1779 who were undoubtedly elected at a town meeting which was apparently unrecorded. The minutes of the town meeting of 1786 are also missing.

In the late 1780's and the early 1790's the proprietors of Rutland attempted to make a final distribution of the land remaining in the town. A great deal of difficulty was experienced because they were not able to ascertain exactly the scheme that the first proprietors who settled in Rutland had used to lay out their lots. Thus they had to devise a system which attempted to follow the general distribution plan of the first settlers and yet still recognized the lots that had been developed by the people in town. In voting to draw up a new plan of the town, the proprietors were making a tacit admission that they did not know the details of the original plan.

Much of the evidence in these missing records may never be known for the records themselves may not exist. Many of our historical perspectives suffer from similar gaps. Yet such situations do not lessen but tend to whet the appetite of our curiosity. Someone once knew what is now unknown. All historians are faced sooner or later with a need for information that may never be available. Such is the tribulation of the historian.

A Visit to Downtown Rutland



By JAMESS. DAVIDSON

After the Civil War numerous writers attempted to bring the flavor of rural life and dialect to a growing urban nation. Jonathan H.T. Dunlap of Rutland offered a local work of this type which was printed in the "Rutland Independent" on April 3, 1869, under the title of "My Last Visit to Rutland." In spite of its not-always-successful attempts at rural dialect and its literary inexperience, it nevertheless offers a very provocative perspective on Rutland's past and present. It is reprinted with minor changes in punctuation.

"Well, the age of wonders will never come to an end I don't think, but I must tell yer. I told my old-man as how I must go over to the Village for to do a little store trade, and so we made calculations according. It was a very nice sort of a day, prime sleighing, and as we had been making repairs for it nigh onto a week, we had things in pretty good trim. We washed the old sleigh, dusted and aired out the old quilt we used for a robe with here and there a stitch or a patch, and so it looked pretty well considering. Then the old mare, she'd had oats for two or three days and she felt nice I tell ye. I've hearn tell that oats would prick horses and make them smart, and I guess them did her, for she was right on eand, and went like Jehu. I had to tell my old-man to hang on to her, or else I dunno where we would have gone to.

"Well, we rode splendid and before much longer we were in town all over. There now, it does beat all I ever did see how things do get turned around. They said the place had most all been burnt up, but I couldn't see as it had. It looked as though it had been built up instead of burnt up. What, with new buildings, and new stores, and new goods, and such lots of fixins, I didn't know nothing what to do or say nor where to go, so I took a general walk round just to see how things looked. The first thing that popped into my head was the new Tea store I had hearn so much about, and so I jist finds it out and I goes right in. Tis real handy when yer on the 'Merchant's Row,' right in Mr. Crampton's new building just about half way from both eands. Says I to a kind of a good-looking chap, 'are you the great American Tea Man?' He says, 'I spose I am.' 'Well,' says I, 'I'll take a quarter of yer best tea if yer a mind to.' He wanted me to take a whole pound of it just to try it. 'Law me,' says I, 'I couldn't think of it. Why what would the neighbors say to hear that I bought a whole pound of tea — a thing I never done in all my life, and me and my old-man has been married nigh onto five and forty years? You see we gals didn't wait till we were old maids in them days afore we got married, for if the boys didn't come to see us, we went to see them. That is the way I got married so soon when I was a gal.' But I got my tea. Nice man to trade with too he was! But, oh, what awful prices they do ask for things; seems as though everything had gorn up.

"You see we took what little money we had by us for fear somebody might steal it while we were gorn, but law, it wouldn't have done much hurt if somebody had, for we didn't have enough to buy anything with it scarcely. They ask so much for every little thing that you can't touch 'em with a ten dollar bill unless it is a green-back, and then, they look at you just as though they wanted to have you swear to its being jenuine before they'd let you have any of their goods for it. I guess they don't have much money amongst them lately, the way they try to get it when they think you've got any. You see we didn't think of things being so high, and so we didn't sell off any stock, nor mortgage the farm either, for the sake of going a-shopping, but I guess we'll have to next time we go if we intend to buy anything.

"Giving up all hope of buying anything, I thought I'd walk up round the corner onto Centre St. and see what I could see. Everybody seemed to be going one way, thinks I, what's up? I looked, and there I see a sign that said, 'One Dollar Store,' and they all making a rush that way. Thinks I, that's the place to buy my things, so in I goes with the rest, quite a crowd, and lots of real nice looking things. but I

didn't see anything I wanted. So I thought I'd just enquire the price of some of his things, so I did, and don't you think everything was a dollar, big or little, it made no difference, all one price. Just then I thought that I was about out of snuff, and seeing as I had fetched over a real nice lot of goose quills that I saved last fall, thinks I, I'll just hit you for a trade. So says I, 'look here, I want some of your best snuff, I suppose you'd ask a dollar, so I'll let you have this bunch of quills, and them is a dollar too, so that'll make about an even trade.' That made the fellows and girls all laugh considerably, and the man that was selling said as how he didn't have any snuff on hand then, so I concluded it warn't much of a trade after all. He said I could get it a few steps below there, so I started out and it being near about noon I thought to go over to the depot and have a near view of the cars as they come along. I'd just got inside the depot building, and something went by me whew, without any whistle or ringing of bells, so I knew it warn't none of the cars. I looked after it, but what on arth to call it, I didn't know. Pretty soon it whirled round, and back it come like all possessed. I just turned round to a little, small man that had a cap on with two brass looking stripes round it, and reading on it that said, 'Master Train.' I guess it was George Francis Train's oldest, or youngest, I dunno which. He looked very invitingly, and so says I, 'Mr. Train, what on arth do you call that thing that's going round here with that fellow hanging on to it?' 'That, oh that's the new kind of horse they have nowadays.' 'Well there, wonder on wonder,' says I, 'what won't they get next? I've hearn of Blackhaws, and Morgans, and Muzzys, and wood horses, and Night Mares, but what kind of a horse do you call this one?' says I. Then Mr. Train said as how they call this the Velocipede breed. He said it would go real fast if you only stayed on and kept kicking him, didn't have to be fed, nor curried, or blanketed; didn't be lame, have the glanders or the horse-ail; didn't have to be docked, and have his tail set up to make him look smart, consequently was a very good kind of a horse. Just then the fellow come up with his velocious horse. Says I to him, 'sposen two of us wants to ride at once, how do ye manage?' Then he went to make one of his graceful turns, and out went his spinning wheels, and down he went kerflop; one leg caught in the wheel and the other went over his head. One of the long ears of the animal took him just under the eye. He had his coattail shouldered, and his hat was nowhere to be seen in less than a minute, and such a grunting and limping as he made when he got right side up. But the horse didn't get up nor kick round, so I concluded he was gentle nad much given to a reclining position. Thinks I to myself, I don't want to ride with that kind of a horse. They told me that lots of the young ladies could ride first rate. 'Well,' says I, 'I was a girl once myself, but if I was one now hang me if I'd ride on that kind of a machine anyway.'

"Just then the cars came along, and such a noise I never did hear, such a crowding and hollering and tumbling of trunks. 'Twenty minutes for dinner at the Bardwell,' shouts a little short man that was a good deal bigger one way than he was the other. 'This way for the Stevens House' bawled out another. 'Plenty of time for dinner at the Central House, right this way, gents any baggage,' says another. Just then somebody hit me behind, and I was histed about two feet end-wise and landed on a wheelbarrow all loaded with leather bags. 'Oh! Mercy on me,' says I, 'where am I? Is this one of them velocipedes?' 'No, No,' says Mr. Train, 'you are among the mails now.' 'Well,' says I, 'just help me out of this for I ain't no male I'de have you understand.' So he helped me to get rited up, and I took a straight course for the place where we hitched the old mare, and concluded to wait for the old-man to come round. Pretty soon he come and said as how he came acrost an old friend of his and we must go up and spend an hour or two with the folks at the house. So off we went, had a nice time, stayed to tea and started for home where we arrived safe and sound, and at last, after a long and tiring day, we

43-3



Alternative Lifestyles in 1863

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In January, 1863, Frank Childs, landscape painter, came to Rutland where he set up a studio for the instruction of students interested in the various branches of the visual arts. By the end of the month Frank Mowrey, Rutland photographer, engaged Childs to color photographs.

On Jan. 30, 1863, the Rutland Herald published a letter to the Editor from a person identified only as "Lucy." The letter was postmarked from Professor Childs' Studio. In this letter it was noted that military men were "taking care of themselves at the expense of the public and the revenue of Government, while 'art makers' are left to take care of themselves while the horrors of civil war are among us for time indefinite."

Lucy went on, "Are not art and art

matters left too much to the artist alone to toil on, generally unappreciated, and, even in communities of wealth, left in comparative isolation with little patronage and proper appreciation? Talent should be respected, and in poetry and music, we have those among us who have made some attainments, but where are our native artists in landscapes and portraits? Gone to Italy! Yes, often to insure a success they could not achieve here, for want of patronage and encouragement! . . . Who among us, in our enlightened, enterprising community, can pass by the artist, (not a mere mechanical man with his chemicals, camera and vise, to hold the head as if to be guillotined,) without bestowing attention and feelings of appreciation? Yet, our native artists are left, in many instances, to struggle on alone, while the

youth of our land are taught the useless and laborious intricacies of geometry and mathematics, that beyond a mere discipline, are of no practical utility.

"Why not develop mechanical and ornamental ability in our schools, by teachers of 'linear perspective' in place of sciences which often prove to be useless to the majority? Why not encourage and cultivate the talent of ladies in painting photographs, a branch of business remunerative and progressive, especially the talent of those who would otherwise delve at the needle, for a small compensation, with a sewing machine to compete with besides? Thank God we have talent among us, and ladies in our cities are becoming 'artists indeed,' and they are not only realizing the emolument of it, but the advantages of its beauty and discipline. Hence we waive the circumscribed notions of those, especially, who question the legitimacy of its practice and attainment, and would ask those afraid of progress, which is the worst in society 'manish women' or 'womanish men?' Which is best, to delve away at the needle for a small compensation, or to go on in more remunerative and progressive studies, and incur the risk of being engaged in 'masculine' pursuits, at the expense of attainments in art, and intelligent, lucrative pursuits?"

For a quiet Vermont community in the midst of the Civil War, Rutland still had people advocating ideas quite liberal for the times on the topics of art, education, and the proper role of women.



And It Came to Pass...

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the post-Civil War era inventions galore were producing a technological revolution in American society. American commentators generally admired the inventions but often had severe misgivings about their effects on American life. In 1874, the editor of the Rutland Herald took a strong editorial position on a new invention called the "telephone." His comments not only help to view the telephone from another perspective but also give the reader cause and opportunity to rethink something that has become a part of our social fabric.

"While people must continue to admire the inventive genius of this universal Yankee nation, and laugh at the fears of the philanthropist who sighed over the sewing machine as destroying the only means of livelihood of thousands of poor women, and the pious indignation of the old deacon who regarded the blasphemous fanning mill as an insult to the God of the winds, we are continually being startled by the novelty and importance of the new conception of machinery and the new application of natural forces. We have got beyond saying that anything is impossible, and are inclined to believe the story that a Down East genius has invented a 'telephone,' which is an instrument by means of which sound can be transmitted without confusion or loss of power for two thousand miles.

"When we get by the point of believing it possible to invent such a weapon as this, and are told upon reliable authority that it has been done, we naturally commence to cogitate as to the uses it can be put to, and be profitable. Its first place of introduction should be into the halls of Congress, so that honorable members can address their constituents at the same time they are boring the House. It will effectually dispense with the practice of commencing a speech and getting leave to print the remainder of it at the public expense, as no ambitious man will substitute the printing of a speech that nobody will read for bellowing it through a Telephone that everybody within a radius of two thousand miles must hear. It would be a great advantage in a political campaign, where the faithful could be stirred up by the clarion tones of a Telephone on every crossroad.

"There are also certain objections to the general use of this powerful acoustic instrument that may prevent its general

use. The quiet Quaker City of Philadelphia would be in constant trouble between the orders of Tammany Hall and the proclamations of the Governor of Ohio, who it is understood may be the Democratic candidate for the next presidency. It would create considerable of a din if the oratorical portion of this free land were to be armed with this new machine for making a noise, and were at liberty to make appeals to the dear people upon all the subjects that weigh them down.

"The great protection of the people now, lies in the fact that the general power of locomotion is superior to the power of speech so that a man can run away from all persecutions of 'forlorn talk.' We have been somewhat alarmed at the effect this new invention would have upon editors, if every person, within

such a distance as could be reached by it, were at liberty to thunder advice into the sanctum of every newspaper in the land. There is a certain degree of stillness and quietness pervading the editorial rooms of every well-regulated journal, and it would disturb many well disposed persons to break in upon it.

"Of course we all expect about half a bushel of advice as to what we ought to say and how to manage our business by every mail. We can lock our doors to keep out irate individuals who wish to find fault with our opinions, but to have the constant reverberation of advisory thunder poured in at every open window in hot weather with force enough to propel it two thousand miles would affect the nerves badly. Taken all in all we are opposed to Telephone, and pray that it may not come into general use."

The Early Articles

Editorial Research Reports

The Articles of Confederation, adopted by the Continental Congress 200 years ago on Nov. 15, 1777, have been bad-mouthed almost since they were written. The new republic had declared its independence the previous year and called itself the "United States of America." It continued nevertheless to be plagued by a lack of national self-identity. The 13 former colonies still thought — and sometimes fought — like 13 separate states. Their individual interests usually were stronger than their common interests. In the end, the 13 articles forming the confederation had to be discarded in favor of a Constitution establishing a federal system of government with stronger central controls. But that did not come about until 1789.

For the intervening years, the Articles of Confederation constituted the fledgling nation's basic law. Although the Articles officially did not become effective until March 1, 1781, when Maryland became the 13th state to ratify them, they legalized what the Continental Congress had been doing since 1775. The Congress of the Confederation, which the Articles established, was organized in the same way and had the same powers as the Continental Congress. Each state was represented by two to six members but had only one vote regardless of size. Assent by nine of the 13 states was required for decisions in important matters

such as making war or concluding treaties, borrowing money, raising armed forces and appointing a commander-in-chief.

The states did not give up their sovereignty but entered "into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their Liberties, and their mutual and general welfare, binding themselves to assist each other, against . . . attacks made upon them. . . ." Three of America's most distinguished historians — the late Samuel Eliot Morison, Henry Steele Commager and William E. Leuchtenburg — comment in their book *The Growth of the American Republic*: "The essence of federalism is the distribution of national and local powers between governments, and in the Articles of Confederation this distribution was not done well. But the Articles did outline a federal system, and marked an improvement over the constitution of any previous confederation in modern history."

Former Ways to Kick the Old Habit



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

In the mid-19th Century, local newspapers began to carry numerous advertisements for patent medicines. Among these were a number which warranted that they could destroy the appetite for tobacco. Although it may come as a surprise to the modern reader, there were many 19th Century tobacco users who wished to break the tobacco habit.

On March 6, 1869, the "Rutland Independent" published three different advertisements for tobacco antidotes. Orton's Preparation occupied a half-column which touted its effectiveness. One box, at a dollar per box, was "warranted to destroy the appetite for tobacco, in any person, no matter how strong the habit may be." If it failed in any case, there was a full refund guarantee.

The makers of Orton's Preparation noted that it was "almost impossible to break off the use of tobacco by the mere exercise of the will." It was claimed that the preparation acted "directly upon the same glands and secretions affected by tobacco, and through these upon the blood, thoroughly cleaning the poison of tobacco from the system and thus allaying the unnatural cravings for tobacco." Although the time for effectiveness varied from person to person, it was claimed that

most people lost all desire for tobacco in about five days.

Dr. Byrn's Antidote was advertised as a cure and not a substitute for smoking, chewing and snuff-taking. It was a purely vegetable and harmless substance which could nullify the terrible effects of tobacco which it claimed killed 100,000 people annually. It was also claimed that dyspepsia, headache, disease of the liver, sallow complexion, costiveness of the bowels, loss of memory and other diseases were brought on by the use of tobacco.

Dr. Jonathan V. Burton's Tobacco Antidote had many of the claims of Dr. Byrn's Antidote. However, it claimed that it also invigorated the system, possessed great nourishing and strengthening power, was an excellent tonic and appetizer, enabled the stomach to digest the heartiest food, made sleep refreshing and established robust health.

These products were advertised by out-of-town mail order proprietors in Portland, Maine, New York City, and Jersey City, respectively.

Rutland tobacco users in the mid-19th Century had promises of relief from the habit of tobacco. It would be interesting to know how many Rutland people used the products and what success they had.

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Relationship With the Creek Is Long-Lasting



Rutland has had a close relationship with Otter Creek since the days that both the Indian and the white man used it as a route for exploration, hunting and war. Early settlement in Rutland centered around the falls of the Otter Creek at Center Rutland. As Rutland grew, transportation swung from the Creek to roads to railroads and finally to automobiles, trucks and airplanes. Power sources changed from water power to steam to electricity to internal combustion. The Creek became a receptacle for the by-products of energy production rather than a source of energy.

Otter Creek was also a locale for fishing and swimming until the 20th Century increased its pollution. In the summer of 1877 the "Rutland Daily Globe"

noted that the "excellent opportunities afforded by Otter Creek for boating" were at last being realized. A number of row boats and sailboats had been placed on the water near Dorr Bridge.

On Aug. 21, 1877, the first sailboat race was held over a two-mile course. The "Frolic," owned by Hugh H. Baxter and sailed by Baxter and T. Ridgway, defeated the "Spray," owned by Will T. Ripley and sailed by Ripley and David Haynes, by about a quarter of a mile.

The Rutland sewage treatment program is part of an attempt to restore Otter Creek to its early purity. The role of Otter Creek in Rutland's future depends greatly on the successful purification of its waters. Will there ever be sailboats on the Creek again?

Corrections Facilities on State Street

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The re-establishment of a state correctional facility on State Street has recently been the target of sizeable local opposition. The original authorization by the Legislature in 1876 was for "a place of confinement for convicts sentenced to less than 20 years' imprisonment."

Rutland was selected as the location for the institution under the condition that the county would contribute \$20,000 of the proposed \$60,000 cost. In return, the facility would also be used as a county jail. Opposition to the original construction centered around the expenditure of tax money for such a purpose in a time of severe depression.

In 1877 a commission selected the site on State Street, and the state of Vermont purchased eight acres of land from Evelyn Pierpoint for \$3,000. The purchase included a highway right-of-way under the East Creek railroad bridge and a railroad right-of-way from the site to the main tracks. These transportation considerations provided numerous types of work opportunity for the inmates in the prison.

It seemed that the location would be acceptable to the people of Rutland because it was west of the village line in a sparsely settled area. The Rutland Globe commented that it was "not so situated as to be a nuisance to residents and property owners of the village."

In 1878 the Legislature changed the original purpose of the institution as a "workhouse" to that of a "house of correction" and the criminal laws were changed so as to allow the court at its discretion to sentence persons, convicted of an offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, to the house of correction.

As times change, conditions change. The location of a penal or correctional institution on State Street in Rutland is again in the news. This time the controversy seems substantial.

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Our Area's Forts



By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

Around the beginning of the American Revolution the citizens of Rutland built a Fort Rutland at what is now the northeast corner of the intersection of North Main and West Streets. The fort was made of 20-foot maple logs sharpened at the top and sunk five feet into the ground. The logs were hewn smooth on their sides which touched each other. The fort was oblong in shape, about 132 feet east and west and 165 feet north and south. At each corner there was a flanker so that each side of the fort could be covered by rifle or musket fire from the corresponding flanker. Portholes for muskets ringed the fort every six feet. The only gate was on the west side, a little south of the center of the wall.

In July, 1777, Fort Rutland was burned by the citizens as they retreated in the face of British Gen. John Burgoyne's advance down the Champlain Valley toward Saratoga, N.Y. Today there is no visible evidence of the fort although Henry Hall wrote in 1848 that a well that was in the fort was covered with a large stone and might be uncovered fairly easily.

In 1778 Rutland became the Vermont military headquarters. Fort Ranger was constructed on the plateau of land near the falls in Center Rutland. It was bounded by Otter Creek, the old burying grounds in Center Rutland. It was bounded by Otter Creek, the old burying grounds in Center Rutland, Route 4 and the slope near the railroad bridge crossing Route 4. Fort Ranger was constructed of 20-foot unhewn hemlock logs which were buried five feet deep in a trench so that the sharpened tops inclined slightly outward. The space between pickets was filled by eight-foot logs to provide a bullet-proof wall. The fort was elliptical or oval in shape. It enclosed an area of more than two acres and could accommodate 200 to 300 men. There were large plank gates on the east and west sides of the fort. On the south side there was a wicket gate that led to Otter Creek.

In the northwest part of the fort there was a blockhouse, 30 or 40 feet square, which was made of hewn logs. It was two stories high with a shingle roof. Some contemporaries indicated that the blockhouse might have been constructed in 1776 before the rest of the fort was built in 1778. Town records indicate that several town meetings were held within the fort.

Today there is no visible trace of these forts of two centuries ago except stone markers which locate their approximate sites.

4-3-3

Varied History of St. Peter's School

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The closing of St. Peter's School as a public educational facility has confronted the Rutland community with broad and serious implications. Specters of assigned bussing and the loss of neighborhood identity have filled public discussion and private concern.

The first St. Peter's School was built in 1855. It was located at what is now 273 West St. opposite the entrance to Meadow Street. In late 1855 or early 1856 it opened its doors to approximately 50 students. It was staffed by two lay teachers.

In the school year 1864-1865 the pastor of St. Peter's, the Rev. Charles Boylan, decided that enrollments required a new school. In June, 1865, the old schoolhouse at 273 West St. was sold. Arrangements were made for the temporary use of the public school district school building (probably a building on School Street) until the new school was built. A Catholic teacher conducted classes.

A new St. Peter's School was constructed on the so-called "ledge lot." It opened to more than 200 students in the fall of 1867. With the completion of St. Peter's Church on the same lot in 1873, the school was converted into the present-day rectory. The old church on Meadow Street (the building now occupied by Romano Brothers Trucking Inc.) was enlarged and converted into a schoolhouse. A wooden addition was built at the rear of the building. St. Peter's School opened in this building in the fall of 1873, staffed by five Sisters of St. Joseph whom Father Boylan had persuaded to come to Rutland from Flushing, N.Y. One or two lay teachers



assisted the sisters in the early years. From 1873 to 1885 enrollments averaged about 350 pupils.

In 1883 the present St. Peter's School was constructed. It opened in January, 1884. In 1887 the gymnasium and club rooms of the Young Men's Catholic Union were constructed as a third floor of the school building. In 1898 a two story wing was added. In the early 20th Century as many as 600 pupils were enrolled at St. Peter's School.

In 1950 St. Peter's School expanded with a modern addition of six classrooms. However, in June, 1972, the first six grades of St. Peter's School were forced by financial problems to close as a parochial school. The Rutland Public School system leased the facilities for these six grades as St. Peter's attempted to maintain 7th and 8th grades for the neighborhood. After a year, St. Peter's School totally ceased parochial operations and the public school alone continued to operate a school through a continued lease of facilities.

A St. Peter's School has operated on the Rutland scene for more than 120 years. For 100 years the Sisters of St. Joseph staffed the school, with occasional lay assistance. From September, 1865, to June, 1867, the school was operated in public facilities, probably on School Street. Since September, 1972, it has been operated as a public school in leased private facilities. Now the Rutland Public School Board has drafted a final chapter in the St. Peter's story by proposing the complete closing of St. Peter's School for financial reasons. The loss of such a tradition can not come without a serious socio-cultural impact.



Gaining Knowledge of Rutland People

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

The local world is most importantly a world of people. To develop a perspective on Rutland as a community a person must exercise an intellectual and emotional activity which confronts the people of the community, both living and dead. Information received from others may be helpful, but in the final analysis a real perspective involves an active reconstruction of people and their activities.

A great variety of people lived in Rutland throughout its history. Most can still be identified and much can be known about them, in some cases more than the privacy laws of today would allow. Census records give amazingly detailed information about the individuals, their families, their occupations and their wealth. Tax records annually supplement such records. Newspapers add occupational information in their advertisements as well as stories of local activities of all kinds. Many of these records are available on microfilm at the Rutland Free Library and the College of St. Joseph the Provider Library. Many church and other organizational records add to these potential sources for a reconstruction of the life of the past. City directories at the Rutland Free Library help to locate the residences and businesses of people within the city and area for more than a century. Picture collections at the Rutland Historical Society and in many private collections add a very important visual element.

Developing a local perspective through local research can be an exciting and rewarding adventure. It is essential to expanding a person's vision of himself and his world.

Looking Backward in A Forward Sense

By JAMES S. DAVIDSON

This week ends the Vermont Bicentennial Year. It brings to a close over two years of bicentennial activity in Rutland and Vermont.

Although Rutland was settled in 1770, 1977 marks the 200th anniversary of Rutland's existence as a part of the sovereign Republic and later the sovereign state of Vermont. Prior to this date Rutland was vaguely a part of New Hampshire or New York although there is little doubt that the feelings of independence were stirring in many of the settlers well before this momentous date.

With the passage of 1977 and the bicentennial celebration there seems to be a need to properly conclude the bicentennial era with some parting comment such as "See you at the Tricentennial in 2076 - 2077." Of course the immediate reply would undoubtedly be an expression of inability to be a part of an activity so far in the future.

However, a few thoughts about the presently passing bicentennial might appropriately put the bicentennial celebration itself in perspective. The bicentennial is not a point in time

but a direction, or more accurately, a number of directions. It involves a looking backward and a moving forward but with a renewed sense of where we are. It affects the vision of humanity and the world, a vision that each person must ultimately build for himself.

And what about the Tricentennial? Now is the time to record, save and interpret our present history. The debt that is owed to the numerous, and sometimes nameless, people who preserved in so many ways the knowledge of the past, is overwhelming. Without them we would know so little of ourselves. Our obligation to the future is obvious.

We have focused on a past to understand our present. We must preserve a knowledge of our present so that the future may also understand its past. That is the ultimate Rutland Bicentennial Perspective.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last article in this series on Rutland history in the past 200 years. James S. Davidson, a local teacher, plans to contribute articles on local historical matters from time to time).